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THOMAS OLDHAM OF ALLESLEY

POETRY.

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# POETRY.

BY THOMAS OLDHAM.

---

O ! should I ever dare profane  
With venal touch the hallow'd lyre,  
Let me be banish'd from the Muses' train ;  
Ne'er let me feel their heart-ennobling fire !  
Unworthy of a Poet's glorious name,  
Let me be doom'd to everlasting shame !

---

LONDON :

A. H. BAILEY AND CO., 33, CORNHILL;

ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, EDINBURGH;

AND CUMMING AND CO., DUBLIN.

MDCCCXL.

LOAN STACK

~~1398F~~

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H. MERRIDEW, PRINTER, COVENTRY.

PR 5112  
O 75 A 17  
1840

## PREFACE.

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THE writer of the following pages has been in the habit, for many years, of amusing himself with the composition of Poetry. Often has he been advised by his friends to publish; and at length, influenced by their persuasion, and feeling a sort of paternal fondness for the offspring of his own brain, he ventures to present this small volume to the notice of the Public.

It contains Poems of many different kinds, composed, of course, in as many varieties of style; and the author has exerted his best

A

endeavours to render them worthy of approbation.

The present times—he is well aware—are unfavourable for the publication of poetical works. The booksellers complain generally of the little demand for them. Nevertheless, it is very improbable that Poetry,—if excellent, (as it ought to be to deserve the name,) should ever be totally neglected. The seed of poetic taste is sown by the hand of Nature in the souls of all men; though in a small number only it is by culture brought to maturity.

The author has exalted ideas of Poetry. He deems it—decidedly—the first of the Fine Arts. It is the most intellectual,—the most



comprehensive,—the most powerful,—the most delightful,—and, also,—hear it, Utilitarians ! —the most useful. In remote antiquity, as is well known, it was chiefly instrumental in teaching and civilising the then-barbarous human race. To lure their wild minds into reflection, it invested truth and morality with the many-coloured garb of Fiction, and introduced them, through their delighted imagination, to their understanding and their heart ; while, by the charm of harmonious numbers, it soothed their fierce and licentious passions into submission to the laws of social life. It was believed to have something divine in its nature, and was universally held in the highest veneration. From ancient times, even to this

day, it has continued to be a favourite study with many of the most illustrious characters.

Finally,—and let this be for ever remembered, as conferring on it the highest honour ! Poetry has been deemed worthy by the Sacred Writers to be made an instrument in the cause of Religion ; and by its sublime descriptions it has assisted human imagination in forming grand, and awful conceptions of the Almighty Creator !

Park-Fields, Allesley, near Coventry,

22d January, 1840.

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## THE MUSE'S TRIUMPH.

---

What adverse passions rule my changeful breast,  
With hope exalted, or by fear deprest !  
Now, by the Muse inspired, I snatch the lyre,  
And proudly to poetic fame aspire ;  
Now dies the sacred flame, my pride declines,  
And diffidence the immortal wreath resigns.  
Friends, void of taste, warm advocates for trade,  
With shafts of ridicule, my peace invade :  
' A Poet !'—thus they sneeringly exclaim—  
' Well may you court that glorious, envied name ;  
For, sure, no common joys his lot attend ;  
None but himself those joys can comprehend.

O, superhuman bliss, employ sublime,  
To scribble fiction, and to jingle rhyme !  
Caged in some muse-behaunted, Grub-street garret,  
To prate his feeders' promptings, like a parrot !  
And what, though want and scorn his life assail ?  
What, though he rave in Bedlam, starve in jail ?  
Such trifling ills the Bard may well despise ;  
Sure of immortal honour when he dies.  
But, seriously—the advice of friendship hear :  
Stop short in your poetical career ;  
O ! quell the frenzies of your fever'd brain,  
And turn, at Wisdom's call, to trade and gain.'

Absorb'd in passive sadness, I comply ;  
Turn from the Muse my disenchanted eye,  
And deign to study, as my friends persuade,  
The little, money-getting arts of trade.



But soon the Goddess, fired with high disdain  
To see me woo the yellow strumpet, Gain,  
Resuming all her beauty, all her power,  
Returns to triumph in the vacant hour ;  
Weakly reluctant, on her charms I gaze,  
Trembling, I feel her fascinating lays ;  
Roused from ignoble dreams, my wondering soul  
Springs to the well-known bliss, regardless of  
control.

Say then, ye blind, profane ! who dare to blame  
The heaven-born Poet, and his thirst of fame ;  
Ye slaves of Mammon ! whose low minds behold  
No fair, no great, no good, in aught but gold ;  
Say ! will the Captive of tyrannic sway,  
Restored to genial air, and boundless day,

Turn to his dungeon's suffocating night ?  
Will the proud Eagle, who with daring flight  
Sublimely soars against the solar blaze,  
And eyes the inspiring God with raptured gaze,  
Stoop from his native kingdom in the sky,  
To share the breathings of mortality ?

How, then, can he, whose breast the Muse inspires,  
Restrain his soul; or quench those hallow'd fires ?  
How can he quit the world of mental bliss,  
For all the riches,—miserics !—of this ?

## ELEGY

ON THE DEATH OF CHATTERTON.

---

When to the region of the tuneful Nine,  
Rapt in poetic vision, I retire,  
Listening intent to catch the strain divine—  
What a dead silence hangs upon the lyre !

Lo ! with disorder'd locks, and streaming eyes,  
Stray the fair daughters of immortal song ;  
Aonia's realm resounds their plaintive cries,  
And all her murmuring rills the grief prolong.

O say ! celestial maids, what cause of wo ?  
Why cease the rapture-breathing strains to soar ?

A solemn pause ensues :—then falters low  
The voice of sorrow : ‘ Chatterton’s no more !’

‘ Child of our fondest hopes ! whose natal hour  
Saw each poetic star indulgent shine ;  
E’en Phœbus’ self o’erruled with kindest power,  
And cried : “ye Nine rejoice ! the Birth is mine.”

‘ Soon did he drink of this inspiring spring ;  
In yonder bower his lisping notes he tried ;  
We tuned his tongue in choir with us to sing,  
And watch’d his progress with delight and pride.

‘ With doting care we form’d his ripening mind,  
Blest with high gifts to mortals rarely known ;  
Taught him to range, by matter unconfined,  
And claim the world of fancy for his own.

‘ The voice of Glory call’d him to the race ;  
Upsprung the wondrous Boy with ardent soul,  
Started at once with more than human pace,  
And urged his flight, impatient for the goal :

‘ Hope sung her siren lay ; the listening Youth  
Felt all his breast with rapturous frenzy fired,  
He hail’d, and boasted, as prophetic truth,  
The bright, triumphant vision Hope inspired :

‘ But short, alas, his transport ! vain his boast !  
The illusive dream soon vanishes in shade ;  
Soon dire Adversity’s relentless host,  
Neglect, Want, Sorrow, Shame, his peace invade :

‘ Glad Envy hisses, Ridicule and Scorn  
Lash with envenom’d scourge his wounded pride ;

Ah ! see him, with distracted mien forlorn,  
Rush into solitude his pangs to hide.

‘ There to the Youth, disguised like Hope, Despair  
Presents the death-fraught chalice and retires :  
In vain, alas ! Religion cries, forbear !  
Desperate he seizes, drains it, and expires.’

## ELEGY,

(WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF A YOUNG LADY.)

SYLVIA ON HER DEAD CANARY-BIRD.

---

Sweet little warbler ! art thou dead ?  
And must I hear thy notes no more ?  
'Then will I make thy funeral bed ;  
Then shall the Muse thy loss deplore.

Beneath the turf in yonder bower,  
Where oft I've listen'd to thy lay,  
Forgetting care, while many an hour  
In music sweetly stole away ;—

There will I bid thy relics rest ;  
Then sadly sigh my last farewell ;

But long, oh ! long within my breast  
Thy memory, poor bird ! shall dwell.

Still to that spot, now more endear'd,  
Shall thy fond mistress oft return,  
And haply feel her sorrows cheer'd,  
To deck with verse thy simple urn.

‘ Here lies a bird, once famed to be  
Peerless in plumage and in lay ;  
This was the soul of melody,  
And that the golden blush of day.’

‘ Soon as the Morn began to peep,  
While yet with shade her smiles were veil'd,  
The sprightly warbler shook off sleep,  
And with his song her coming hail'd.’



‘ His guardian rose, nor scorn’d as mean,  
But found it still a pleasing care,  
To keep his little mansion clean,  
And minister his daily fare.’

‘ The dewy groundsel was his feast,  
Which when the watchful songster view’d,  
Straight his loud, thrilling strain he ceased,  
And softly chirp’d his gratitude.’

‘ Then would he peck his savoury treat,—  
Turn his head sly, and breathe a note—  
Now flutter wild with wings and feet—  
Then silent sit—now pour his throat.’

‘ His playful freaks, his joyous lay,  
Well pleased, his mistress would attend ;

It call'd affection into play,  
And gave to solitude a friend.'

' Thus happily his days he led  
Even to the ninth revolving year ;  
Then Fate, alas ! her weapon sped ;  
And Pity laid his relics here.'

## TO JULIA.

---

Should Phœbus e'er desert my mind,  
And should the Nine their aid refuse,  
Enchanting Girl ! I still could find  
A theme in thee, in thee a Muse.

Can Fiction any charms devise  
That proudly may with thine compare ?  
On thee she turns her wondering eyes,  
And drops the pencil in despair.

Far sweeter are thy notes to me  
Than sweetest poet ever sung ;  
And true perfection would it be  
To sing thy beauties with thy tongue.

Let Phœbus, then, desert my mind !  
And let the Nine their aid refuse !  
Ever, my Julia ! shall I find  
In thee a theme, in thee a Muse.

## TO JULIA.

---

Sing, lovely Girl ! to hear Thee sing

Hush'd is the listening air ;

My spirit trembles on the wing,

And no delay can bear.

Those down-cast eyes, that smile suppress,

Thy conscious power betray ;

Yet, Siren ! grant the bold request ;

Come, steal my heart away.

See, see, those ruby lips divide ;

An ivory shrine appears ;

There Harmony and Love reside,

To ravish mortal ears.

And hark ! they from that sweet recess  
    Breathe their celestial lays ;  
The enchanting sounds my thought possess  
    With rapture and amaze.

Still pressing on with strong control  
    I feel the lavish strain,  
Till drunk with bliss, my wilder'd soul  
    Reels on the brink of pain.

Ah ! how could I so rashly dare  
    Contend with Powers divine ?  
The pride of victory forbear ;  
    My heart is wholly thine.

# ON SEEING MADEMOISELLE \* \* \*

DANCE AT THE OPERA IN PARIS.

---

What fine aerial Shape,  
In orient colours dight,  
Springs from the world unknown  
Upon my wondering sight?

Loosely through various space  
The lovely Figure flows,  
And leaves the sleeping air  
Unconscious as it goes.

Hark ! a spontaneous strain  
Its fairy gait attends ;

In concord every sound  
With every movement blends.

Lo, now! the passive Form  
Moves as the music leads ;  
Each motion from each note,  
Harmoniously proceeds.

By the same sense, methinks,  
At once I hear and see ;  
And ears and eyes and mind  
Are all one harmony.

Along my shivering nerves  
The mingled raptures thrill,  
And strangely take my soul,  
And rule it as they will ;



True to the magic force,  
That shifts a thousand ways,  
An echo, and a shade,  
It answers and obeys.

But ah ! the charm expires.—  
Did Fancy thus deceive ?  
She smiles, and fondly vain,  
Would have me so believe.

## SONNET,

ON TAKING A FAVOURITE WALK, AFTER  
RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

---

Ye scenes beloved ! O welcome once again !  
Forbidden long to my desiring sight,  
Now, now ! triumphant o'er disease and pain,  
I visit ye with fresh, increased delight.

Vine-mantled Hills, whose heights I joy'd to climb,  
The Morn's sweet infant breathings to inhale ;  
River ! whose banks I roved in trance sublime,  
While fancy-whispering Eve spread soft her veil ;

And thou, O Wood, in whose moon-checked  
shade

The nightly songstress oft has charm'd my ear

Till Morning told me I so long had stay'd :

Hail all ye objects to my memory dear !

Once more, to feel the transports ye impart,

Health wakes my every sense and tunes my heart.

SONNET,  
WRITTEN ON MY BIRTH DAY.

---

Again has Time his annual circle run,  
And April ushers in my natal day :  
Since first my infant eyes beheld the sun,  
How many a year has swiftly roll'd away !  
Full half my thread of life the Fates have spun ;  
What various colours does the web display !  
Some dark, some brighter ; ere the work be done  
The sadder hues will overshadow the gay.  
Yet not to Melancholy will I yield ;  
Against Despondency and Discontent  
Still Fortitude and Hope shall keep the field ;  
Swerving from thee, O Virtue ! I repent ;  
Now ! to repel Temptation I am steel'd ;  
To follow thee I'm resolutely bent.

## ECLOGUE.

SPRING.

---

Muse of the pastoral reed and sylvan reign,  
Divine inspirer of each tuneful swain,  
Who taught the Doric Shepherd to portray  
Primeval nature in his simple lay ;  
And him of Mantua, in a nicer age,  
To form the graces of his artful page ;  
O, come ! where crystal Avon winds serene,  
And with thy presence bless the brightening scene ;  
Now, while I rove his willowy banks along,  
With fond intent to wake the rural song,  
Inspire me, Goddess ! to my strains impart  
The force of nature, and the grace of art.

Now has the Night her dusky veil withdrawn,  
And, softly blushing, peeps the smiling Dawn ;  
The lark, on quivering wings, amid the skies  
Pours his shrill song, inviting her to rise ;  
The breathing Zephyrs just begin to play,  
Waking the flowers to steal new sweets away :  
And now with trembling steps, her swain to find,  
Fair Delia hastens to the spot assign'd :  
Her faithful Colin waits impatient there ;  
How raptured to regain his long-lost fair !

## COLIN.

O happiness !—and am I then so blest ?  
Or does a heavenly dream possess my breast ?  
Has not her father sternly bid us part,  
And for my rival claim'd his daughter's heart ?

Has not my Delia sigh'd the sad adieu ?  
Have I not long been banish'd from her view ?  
Away, ye jealous fears ! ye sorrows, flee !  
This letter, this ! revokes the dire decree.  
And lo ! she comes ! she comes ! but why so slow,  
Pensive, and shy, as if oppress'd with wo ?  
My Delia !—

DELIA.

Colin !      (*They embrace.*)

COLIN.

O my Delia ! tell,  
What dark ideas in thy bosom dwell.  
Is not thy letter true ? then give thy soul  
To love and happiness without control.

DELIA.

O generous Colin ! can'st thou, then, forget  
The painful past, and love thy Delia yet ?  
Deem me not faithless ; stern parental sway,  
Spite of my tears, constrained me to obey.

COLIN.

Faithless ? O no ! I knew thy father's ire ;  
Thy filial virtue could not but admire ;  
Still did I hope, believe, and know thee true :  
The pains I suffer'd thou did'st suffer too.  
Now weep no more ; this bids our sufferings cease,  
This letter—heavenly messenger of peace !—  
That promises a more propitious fate ;  
But thou, sweet girl ! the same blest news relate ;  
Chase from thy fancy every shade of fear ;



Wipe from thy cheek that ill-beseeming tear ;  
And tell thy lover all ;—he burns to hear.

## DELIA.

When Damon first his amorous suit address  
Thou long had'st reign'd the sovereign of my  
breast ;

My love, my heart, my soul were vow'd to thee,  
And none but Colin could have charms for me.  
With scorn, thou know'st, his courtship I declined :  
O, that my thoughts had sway'd my father's mind !  
But Damon's ampler wealth, which I despised,  
Too much, alas ! my doting father prized.

What were thy words that sad, that trying hour,  
When, in submission to paternal power,  
I sacrificed the feelings of my heart,  
And faltering told thee we were doom'd to part ?

‘ Part !—must we part, my Delia ?’ did’st thou say,  
‘ Alas ! ’tis Virtue’s law ; we must obey ;  
But still, to render absence less severe,  
Let us, my Love, Hope’s pleasing dictates hear.  
Little of Damon, yet, thy father knows :  
Time his perfidious purpose will disclose ;  
Then will thy sire his hasty choice repent ;  
And to our loves, perhaps, may yield consent.  
Meanwhile beware, my Delia, O beware !  
Lest Damon’s arts thine innocence insnare.’  
Such were thy parting words. Now, Colin, hear !  
Then will thy words prophetic appear.  
Each night the favourite of my parents came  
To boast the matchless ardour of his flame ;  
Still did he teaze me with his flattering strain ;—  
Fool, to suppose his praise could make me vain !

At length a favouring hour the traitor chose,  
And dared his wicked purpose to disclose.

COLIN.

Did he ? O heaven ! the impostor could not dare ;  
I would, my Love, thy Colin had been there !

DELIA.

Just then, most luckily, my sire returned :  
Surprised, enraged, his Damon's guilt he learn'd :  
Then banish'd him, (his advocate no more,)  
With vengeful threats for ever from his door.

COLIN.

Look ! how the glorious Sun, as he ascends,  
His radiance o'er the dew-bright earth extends,

While the last fogs of conquer'd night retreat,  
And Nature welcomes the reviving heat :  
So thy returning smiles, indulgent fair !  
Dispel my fears and every jealous care.

DELIA.

No less delight to me thy smiles impart,  
Diffusing sunshine through my raptured heart ;  
Hope, like yon lark, has spread her drooping wings,  
And, mounting up to heaven, her carol sings.

COLIN.

Observe, my Love, the beauties of the scene ;  
The youthful year puts forth its tender green ;  
Awakened Flora bids her flowerets rise,  
Opening their colours to the genial skies ;

Winter is fled ; fair Spring's melodious voice  
Whispers, in every balmy breeze, rejoice !

DELIA.

The sparkling rills dance warbling in their beds ;  
The trees with gladness lift their fresh, green heads ;  
From yonder wood responsive cuckoos sing ;  
The swallow skims the stream, and dips his wing.

COLIN.

Objects and sounds of joy ! yet, Delia, these,  
Unaided by thy presence, would not please ;  
Though thousand charms and harmonies unite,  
Thy favour only crowns the full delight.

DELIA.

Now, Colin, duty summons me away ;  
Gladly I would, but must no longer stay.

COLIN.

When duty summons we resist in vain :  
Yet tell me, kindest Delia, once again,—  
To give me courage unalarm'd to part,  
And soothe, till next we meet, my restless heart,—  
O tell me art thou now for ever mine ?

DELIA.

Yes, Colin, now I am for ever thine.

## ECLOGUE.

SUMMER.

---

DAVID.

My task is done ; no further will I mow ;  
I faint with hunger, and with heat I glow.  
Well, Giles, what cheer ? how far behind you lag !  
Badly your practice answers to your brag.

GILES.

Deuce take the scythe ! no wonder I am last ;  
The wonder is I work'd my way so fast ;  
Sure such another never yet was made ;  
It's maker must have been a duller blade ;

The bungling fool, might I his fault chastise,  
Should use it for a razor till he dies.

DAVID.

Ha, ha, well said, young jester ; though bereft  
Of strength and patience, yet your wit is left.  
But come, good friend, to dinner let us go ;  
Tired are my limbs, my wasted spirits low.

GILES.

Poor David ! age is weak, soon jaded out ;  
I feel, as when beginning, fresh and stout ;  
Your easy task is ended, therefore dine :  
I scorn refreshment till I finish mine.

DAVID.

Then to yon grassy bank I will retreat,  
Shaded by willows from the oppressive heat ;



There may we dine, and seated all at ease,  
Imbibe fresh vigour with the cooling breeze.

GILES.

Curse his old arms! so nimble and so strong;  
How calmly did he seem to creep along!  
While I for conquest strove with eager pain,  
And labour'd, sweated, panted—all in vain!  
This awkward tool—yet no defect I see—  
The ground uneven—some cause must there be.  
He the best mower? let it not be known;  
No, crafty Giles, that secret is your own.  
Fatigue, thirst, hunger, strongly urge me hence.—  
I'll e'en o'ertake him with some fair pretence.

DAVID.

Ha, ha, the foolish vanity of youth,

Such painful efforts to disguise the truth !

Who comes ? what, Giles ! so quickly change your  
mind ?

Too wise, I thought, to tarry long behind.

GILES.

In one employment when good fellows meet,  
They should together toil, together eat.

DAVID.

Here let us sit ; against this trunk I'll lean,  
You against that ; the dinner placed between.

GILES.

Now rest we silent till our meal be done ;  
While in our ears sweet watery murmurs run.

## DAVID.

Right ! when the body feels recruited force,  
More eloquently will the mind discourse.

## GILES.

Now, David, I'll attempt a loftier strain ;  
Listen, and judge of my poetic vein.  
See Phœbus his meridian height attains,  
And, like a king, in all his splendour reigns ;  
Beneath his scorching radiance Nature lies  
Feverish and faint ; her beauteous verdure dies ;  
Oppress'd and panting with the sultry heat,  
The flocks and herds to shades or streams retreat ;  
Through the still air no Zephyr dares to play,  
Lest his soft pinion melt in heat away ;  
But if, to mitigate the solar ray,

A lucid cloud should kindly intervene ;  
Then the glad Zephyrs sport beneath the grateful  
screen.

DAVID.

How beautiful the thoughts ! and how sublime !  
Rich is the language, and exact the rhyme.  
Inform me, friend, are those fine strains your own ?  
They rise superior to the rustic tone.

GILES.

Why not be mine ? does then the gift of song  
To wealth and rank exclusively belong ?  
Fancy with choice unbribed her few selects,  
Nor affluence, nor exalted birth respects ;  
The kingly mansion she will oft forsake,  
Pleased with the shepherd her abode to make :

With me the kind Enchantress long has dwelt ;  
Long has my soul her inspirations felt.

## DAVID.

I once the feelings of a poet knew ;  
(Though in my best of days no match for you,)  
But now my genius yields to conquering time ;  
Yet still I keep my judgment and my rhyme ;  
Then what that judgment dictates I declare :  
No tuneful shepherd can with you compare ;  
Although in many a county I have been,  
And many a rural poet I have seen.

## GILES.

O cease your high applauses, kindest friend !  
For sure my merit they must far transcend.

How different men in different ways excel !  
My forte is rhyming, your's is mowing well ;  
And while to me you deign in song to yield,  
You bear the scythe triumphant through the field.

## DAVID.

That only Youth, whose sweetly-flowing lays,  
Resembling your's, deserve the second praise,  
Dwelt near this place—or memory I lack—  
Yes ! now I recollect—five summers back,  
When to these parts for harvest-work I came,  
How all the fields resounded with his fame.  
The Bard I ne'er beheld ; but heard the swains  
Still, with delight, repeat his peerless strains :  
Not less by Fortune, than the Muses, blest,  
No cares of life disturb'd his peaceful breast ;

For poesy alone his happy soul possest.

Did you not know that youth ?

GILES.

Full well I knew ;

Nor is he, David, quite unknown to you ;—

That Youth am I !—(with what surprize you gaze !)

Then was I blest indeed with golden days ;

My parents' only child, at home I dwelt,

Indulged, caress'd, nor cares, nor wishes felt :

How did they joy my verses to peruse !

How praise each effort of my lisping Muse !

Then sweetly glided on the stream of time ;

I tended flocks, or meditated rhyme.

Alas ! my friend, those blissful hours are o'er,

My then-propitious stars now rule no more.

Long has my Father slept among the dead :—  
With his last breath my joys, my hopes all fled.  
The wealth he left, which might our woes have  
eased,

His greedy creditors unpitying seized :  
My Mother and myself (our sole resource)  
For livelihood to labour took recourse.

DAVID.

Affecting tale! I've heard it with a tear.

GILES.

No longer sit we idly chatting here ;  
The village clock has struck ; come, let us up !  
To-night, friend David, we'll together sup.



## EPISTLE

TO A FRIEND.

---

Has then, the Paphian Queen at length prevail'd ?  
Has the sly little Archer, whom my Friend  
Once would despise, with all his boyish wiles,  
Now taken ample vengeance, made thee feel  
His piercing shaft, and taught thy heart profane  
With sacred awe, repentant, to confess  
The Son of Venus is indeed a God ?  
I greet his triumph ; for he has but claim'd  
His own ; the breast that was by Nature form'd  
And destined for his temple Love has claim'd.

The great, creating Parent, when she breathed  
Into thine earthly frame the breath of life,

Indulgently conferr'd on thee a soul  
Of finer essence, capable to trace,  
To feel, admire, and love, the fair, the good,  
Wherever found, through all her various works.  
And is not Woman, then, her fairest work,  
Fairest, and oft her best ? endowed with gifts  
Potent to captivate, and softly rule  
The hearts of all men ? chiefly such as thou,  
By partial Nature favour'd from the birth ?  
Why wast thou, then, reluctant to confess  
The sovereignty of Love ? so strangely deaf  
Through half thy genial season to the voice  
Of Nature, kindly calling thee to taste  
Felicity congenial to thy soul ?  
This was the secret cause :—inscrutable  
To vulgar minds, who fancied thee foredoom'd

To celibacy, for thyself alone  
Existing ; but I rightlier judged my Friend—  
The cause was this : there lurk'd within thy breast  
A visionary flame ; for, while retired  
In solitude, on classic lore intent,  
Thy fancy, to console thee for the loss  
Of female intercourse, conceived a Maid,  
With each soft charm, each moral grace, adorn'd,  
Fit Empress of thy soul ; and oft would Hope  
Gaze on the lovely phantom, till at length  
She dared to stand on disappointment's verge,  
Anticipating such thy future bride.  
What wonder, then, that Chloe's golden locks  
Should weave no snare for thee ? that Delia's eyes,  
So darkly bright, should innocently glance,  
Nor dart their lightnings through thy kindling  
frame ?

That many a Fair should unregarded pass,  
So far unlike the picture in thy mind ?  
At last, in happy hour, my Friend beheld  
Partial, a Maid of mild, engaging mien,  
Of artless manners, affable, and gay,  
Yet modestly reserved, with native taste  
Endued, with genuine feeling, with a heart  
Expansive, generous, and a mind well-taught,  
Well-principled in things of prime concern.  
Still, as, with anxious doubt, thou didst pursue  
The delicate research, new virtues dawn'd  
Upon thy ravish'd view :—'twas She !—'twas She !  
Then marvelling Fancy saw her image live ;  
And Hope her dream fulfill'd ; then triumph'd  
Love ;  
And Nature was obeyed.—

Yet still suspense

Reign'd awful in thy breast, for who could stand  
Between the realms of happiness and pain,  
Waiting his sentence fearless? O my Friend!  
What was thy transport, when the gracious Maid  
With virgin blushes and approving smile  
Received thy vows, consented to be thine?

Now, then, let Friendship gratulate thy lot,  
Supremely blest! and let her fondly hope  
That, while the names of Husband, Father, thrill  
Thy soul with livelier joy, thou wilt, at times,  
Remember still, well pleased, the name of Friend.

## TO DELILLE.

---

Amid the jingle of the rhyming throng  
I mark with transport some diviner song ;  
Sweet to their native heaven the strains aspire,  
Commanding silence to the vulgar quire ;  
Apollo smiles, and all the tongues of Fame  
Through the poetic realm Delille proclaim.

O let a British Bard, admiring, greet  
Thy glorious triumph, and thy praise repeat !  
When merit claims the panegyric lay,  
Envy he scorns, and joys the debt to pay.  
Painter of Nature hail ! to thee belong  
Unrivall'd talents for descriptive song :

While others, fired with more ambitious views,  
Invoke the Epic, or the Tragic Muse,  
And, throned in Glory's temple, shine sublime,  
Proud of their laurel-wreaths that fear not Time,  
Thy Genius fondly stoops to softer themes,  
The landscape's beauties—flowers, and groves,  
and streams,  
And round his brows in modest triumph wears  
A simple garden-wreath, but ever green, as theirs.

What though, some critics, in their taste severe,  
Turn from thy subject a disdainful ear,  
Demanding still, their duller minds to strike,  
War, passion, plot, surprises—and the like ?  
Yet will true Taste, that ranges unconfined,  
And feels the charms of every various kind,  
Oft quit Voltaire, or Corneille, to peruse,

Delille ! the milder beauties of thy Muse ;  
Oft love, with thee, through rural scenes to stray,  
And sweetly study Nature in thy lay.

But, ah ! what boldness does thy breast inspire ?  
Say, wilt thou dare to touch the Mantuan lyre ?  
Long has thy country wish'd that classic spoil,  
Yet, of her tongue distrustful, shunn'd the toil ;  
O cease then !—but thy hand essays the strings,—  
Amazement !—Fancy cries, 'tis Virgil sings !  
The same thy numbers, so correctly free,  
So full of sweetness, full of majesty !

Now, France, exult ! nor view with envy more  
Surrounding nations rich in Roman lore ;  
Delille has sung ; then glory in his name,  
Engraved, immortal, on the rolls of Fame.



## ODE

WRITTEN ON THE NIGHT OF THE ILLUMINATIONS FOR  
LORD HOWE'S VICTORY ON 1ST JUNE, 1793.

---

Whence the shouts of public joy,

Whence the galaxies of light,

That strike the deafen'd ear ?

That charm the dazzled sight ?

While Night, arrested in her highest way,

Stands wondering at the scene, and doubtful of  
her sway ?

Hark ! Fame exalts her voice :—

‘ Britannia triumphs, let her sons rejoice !

The Gallic Foe, that dared her vengeance brave,

Lies whelm'd in death beneath the blood-stain'd  
wave ;

Britannia thunder'd o'er the rebel main,  
His distant billows heard, and own'd her awful  
reign.'

Be hush'd my soul ! in still amazement mourn !

O fly the giddy train !

From their inhuman transports turn

With pity,—with disdain !

Strip, strip, from Victory the fair disguise,

And let her own dire form appal thine eyes !

Ah, mark her triumphs in yon hideous scene !

Myriads of brother-men untimely slain ;

Hear the deep groan, survey the dying mien,

Convulsed with agonies of pain ;

And hark ! what cries of wretchedness resound

Throughout the troubled air !

Widows and Orphans doom'd a helpless prey  
To famine and despair !  
And does ambition glory ? Oh ! the shame !  
The direful outrage to the human name !  
Nature herself is moved, the blushing stars retire,  
And sudden storms denounce high heaven's  
awaken'd ire.

See the black firmament divide !  
The almighty sword, with heavenly lustre bright,  
Flashes on the sight  
Terrific glory, dazzling mortal pride ;  
The parted concave closes, while around  
Deep, rushing peals resound,  
Scatter the clouds, in airy tempest hurl'd, •  
And shake the solid pillars of the world.

As breathing from the tomb,  
A death-like stillness reigns,  
Save that in Fancy's jealous ear  
A sad, prophetic breeze complains  
Of some impending doom,  
While every soul is lost in vacancy and fear.

Now while Ambition lies in sleep unblest,  
Portentous visions haunt his guilty breast :  
Borne on a trophied car, sublime he goes  
Amid the gazing crowd,  
Who shout his triumphs loud ;  
With haughty bliss his flatter'd spirit glows :—  
Sudden deserted and alone,  
Confused, alarm'd, in dreary shades unknown,  
He hears the wild waves beat the shore,

The din of battle roar :—

'Tis silence ! frowning vengeful from the gloom,

Before his shrinking eyes

Unnumber'd spectres rise,

Point to their bleeding wounds, and sternly curse  
their doom :

The conscious Murderer starts, the thunders roll,  
And hell's dread chaos yawns on his despairing  
soul.

But when the morn exerts her cheering power,  
And guilt-alarms darkness disappears,  
Wilt thou, Ambition ! slight the warning hour,  
And fondly strive to dissipate thy fears ?

Yet wilt thou dare fulfil

The madness of thy will ?

Kindle round earth the wasteful flames of strife,  
And glut the fiends of war with human life ?  
Then mask with glory's name thy murderous  
cause,

While fond, deluded mortals shout applause ?

Yet madly wilt thou dare ?—

Devoted Wretch ! forbear !—

Cries of the living, curses of the dead,

Have claim'd thy destined head ;

And that same Power, whose mighty hand

Once humbled thine aspiring flight,

And hurl'd thee, with thy rebel band,

Down to the deeps of hell and night,

Now warns no more ; that Power no longer spares,

Thy sentence he hath fix'd, thy fate he now prepares.

ODE  
TO HORROR.

---

I felt thee, Horror ! rush upon my soul,  
Thy hideous band my frightened fancy saw ;  
Spare me, O spare me ! cease thy dire controul,  
And let my trembling hand the vision draw.

Lo ! what terrific Forms around thee wait,  
The monstrous births abhorr'd of Mind and Fate !  
Murder, with blood of innocence defiled ;  
Despair, deep-groaning ; Madness screaming  
    wild ;  
Mid clouds of smoke, the fire-eyed Fury, War,  
Through gore and mangled flesh whirl'd in her  
    thundering car ;

Plague, sallow Hag ! who arms her breath  
With thousand viewless darts of death ;  
And Earthquake, image of the final doom,  
That, bursting fierce his anguish'd mother's womb,  
Whelms nations in the yawning jaws of night,  
And palsies mighty Nature with affright.

Amid that direful band  
I see thee, Horror ! stand,  
With bloodless visage, terror-frozen stare,  
Distorted, ice-bound limbs, and bristling hair,  
Thy shivering lips bereft of speech and breath,  
In monstrous union life combined with death.  
I see thee still, O Horror ! and in thee  
Methinks an image of myself I see ;  
For, while I gaze with fear-fixed sight,  
O Horror ! thy Gorgonian might



Turns me to stone : dread tyrant, O forbear !

To view thee I no longer dare.—

I feel my throbbing heart respire.

Again my fancy with unquell'd desire,

O Horror ! courts thee, trembling owns thy power.

Come, let us now, at this congenial hour,

While midnight tempests sweep

With bellowing rage the ship-ingulfing deep,

While thunders roar, and livid lightnings blaze,

Let us on that dread, watery chaos gaze.

Or from the peopled vale, below,

Uplooking, see, from lofty Alpine crown,

The rolling mass of snow,

Into a mountain grown,

Rush overwhelming down.

Or let us, in Numidian desert drear,  
The roar of prowling beasts, and hiss of serpents  
hear ;  
Or bask by blazing city ; or explore,  
On Etna's brink, the sulphurous mouth of hell,  
And hear the fiery flood tempestuous roar,  
And hear the damn'd in hotter torments yell.  
Or wilt thou, Horror ! haunt the villain's breast,  
In dismal solitude, by thought opprest ;  
Where guilty Conscience fetter'd lies,  
Turn'd all her shrinking lidless eyes  
Full to the blaze of truth's unclouded sun,  
And struggles, still in vain, her pangs, herself to  
shun ?  
Ah !—now more hideous grows thine air ;  
With direr aspect ne'er dost thou appear,

To fright weak Beings in this earthly sphere ;  
Faint semblance of thy most tremendous mien,  
As, in Tartarean gulfs of endless night,  
By agonizing demons thou art seen :  
But oh ! what living eye could bear that sight ?  
To look on it e'en Fancy does not dare.—  
Oh ! may I ne'er be doom'd to see thee, Horror !  
there !

# ODE

## TO HOPE.

---

Thou Cherub fair ! in whose blue, sparkling eye  
New joys, anticipated, ever play ;  
Celestial Hope ! with whose all-potent sway  
The moral elements of life comply ;  
At thy melodious voice their jarrings cease,  
And settle into order, beauty, peace ;  
How dear to memory that thrice-hallow'd hour  
Which gave Thee to the world, auspicious Power !  
Sent by thy parent, Mercy, from the sky,  
Invested with her own all-cheering ray,  
To dissipate the thick, black cloud of fate  
Which long had shrouded this terrestrial state,

What time fair Virtue, struggling with despair,  
Pour'd forth to pitying heaven her saddest soul  
in prayer :

Then, then she saw the brightening gloom  
divide,

And Thee, sweet Comforter! adown thy rainbow  
glide.

From the veil'd awful future, to her view  
Scenes of immortal bliss thou didst disclose ;  
With faith's rapt eye she hail'd the vision true,  
Spurn'd the base earth, and smiled upon her  
woes.

Thou Sovereign of the human soul  
Whose influence rules without controul !  
Unlike thy gloomy rival, Fear,

Abhorr'd, usurping Demon ! who constrains  
The shuddering spirit in his icy chains :

O Hope ! be thou for ever near ;

Keep the dread tyrant far away,

And all my willing, grateful bosom sway.

Each coming hour, that smiles with promise sweet,

In thy bright, spotless mirror let me greet,

And fondly passive to thy dictates, deem

Those smiling hours all heavenly as they seem :

Should changeful Fortune, hostile in her mood,

With storms and thunder arm her meteor-car,

And 'gainst me summon all her host to war,

Rouse thou, kind Power ! the champion Fortitude,

With his well-tempered shield

To brave the threatening field.

Amid that scene of woes and mental strife

Let thy sweet, distant whisper soothe my ear,  
Inviting Fancy far from mortal life,  
To wander, blest, her own-created sphere.

Do thou her glowing thought possess,  
And let her fairy pencil draw,  
Free, and unconscious of thy law,  
Fair images of Happiness ;  
Of that celestial form which lives imprest  
Indelible, eternal, in thy breast.

E'en in the dead calm of the mind,  
When Fancy sleeps, thou yet be kind ;  
O Hope ! still let thy golden pinions play,  
The unbreathing void to cheer, and shed a glancing  
ray !

## ODE

TO THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

---

This, this is inspiration's hour !  
Poetic Genius, rushing on my soul,  
Rouses her every sense, her every power,  
And with a force too mighty to controul  
Inspires the warm, enthusiastic song :  
Now will I sing, O Wellington ! of thee ;  
To thee my plausive strains, of right, belong ;  
For thee my lyre shall pour its choicest harmony.  
Long have I fondly mused the theme sublime ;  
And from my grateful heart of patriot flame  
In secret, offer'd incense to thy name ;



But dared not with unhallow'd rhyme

Profane the British Hero's fame.

Thrice welcome this propitious time !

Now, joining with my Country's minstrel-band,

Thy deeds, O Wellington ! will I rehearse

In lofty never-dying verse,

To which Britannia's self shall deign

To lend a listening ear,

While in thy military, swift career

Triumphantly she leads thee by the hand,

And proudly thrones thee high in glory's fane.

In yonder eastern climes afar

What dawning light attracts the Muse's eye ?—

She feels the influence of her ruling star,

And with an eagle's gaze, an eagle's wings,

As to Apollo's self, transported, springs—  
'Tis Wellington in Victory's brilliant car,  
Who his triumphal progress has begun ;  
    Around him honour's sun  
    Shoots forth its orient ray :  
    In wondering India's sky  
    He rises like the God of day.

Greet him, O England ! greet thy conquering Son !  
    O ! could'st thou but foresee  
    The events of dark futurity,  
How would'st thou, then, adore the name of  
    Wellington !

    Know !—he shall soon thy thunders wield  
    In many a European field,  
Confound thy haughty foes with dread amaze,  
And fill the dazzled world with his meridian blaze.

To Europe's frighten'd eyes

What scenes of horror rise !

See, from the darkness of the infernal world,

Where with the rebel demons he was hurl'd,

See, Revolution rears his hydra-head !

Ill-fated Gallia is his destined prey.

Thither the Monster makes his furious way ;

And with a loud, ferocious yell,

That strikes the earth with dread,

And spreads delight through hell,

He summons all his hideous train,

To strengthen and support his reign.

Broke are the bonds of social life,

All kindred, all domestic ties ;

Mid scenes of anarchy and civil strife,

Mid plots, cabals, and murderous rivalries,

Eager for prey, with licence unconfined  
Range the fierce Passions of the human mind,  
Ambition, Avarice, Anger, Vengeance, Hate :  
With frantic men rejoicing devils howl,  
And all hell's ravenous blood-hounds barking  
prowl.

O could oblivion veil that direst page of fate !

The revolutionary storm subsides.—

Lo ! now, proud Gallia's Genius towers on high ;

O'er half Europa he already strides,

And glorying in his might threatens earth and sky ;

The neighbouring nations, vanquish'd to his sway,

Like abject slaves his tyrant power obey.

What conqueror leads the Gallic armies on ?

Fortune's loved child, Ambition's darling son,

'Tis the French Emperor, great Napoleon :

And subject to his high imperial will,  
His warlike marshals his commands fulfil.  
What can resist their overwhelming force ?  
Has Liberty no succour ? no resource ?  
She has ! she has ! O save her, Wellington !  
Ere yet unhappy Spain be forced to yield,  
Fly with Britannic forces to the field,  
And pluck the noblest palm thou yet hast won.

The memory of Talavera's day  
Still strikes our foes with wonder and dismay ;  
There did the Briton soldier boldly claim  
The honour due to his illustrious name.

On Torres-Vedras' height,  
Like Jove upon the Olympian steep,

When he defied the Giant-race to fight,  
Thy station calmly didst thou keep,  
Despite the vengeful threats of boasting France.  
How didst thou long to see her powers advance !  
But no : the veteran Chief, Massena, fled.  
Swiftly thy ardent troops his flight pursue ;  
His soldiers fall in crowds ; Confusion, Fear,  
And Slaughter dog them in the rear ;  
Famine and Desolation meet their van.  
Spaniard with Portuguese in vengeance vies ;  
New toils they still encounter, dangers new,  
Thus Fortune's Favourite, this unconquer'd man  
Accomplishes his haughty boast :  
Home he returns with less than half his host ;  
His baggage, ordnance, thine, brave Wellington !  
And all his wreaths in former warfare won.

So Albion, throned upon her rocky seat,  
Sees the proud-swelling billows idly beat ;  
Resistance needs not their assaults to foil ;  
Shrinking into themselves, they straight recoil,  
Leaving foam, dirt, and sea-weed at her feet.

On Douro's banks

Methinks I view the hostile, threatening ranks ;  
The Lord of war to battle calls :—  
Hark ! through the affrighted sky  
Bursts the dread cannons' roar ;  
While thousand slaughterous balls  
In vollies whizzing fly.  
See, see, the Gallic Captain falls !  
His bold achievements now are o'er.  
The Britons shout, and rush into the field ;  
The French dishearten'd yield :

What heaps of wounded, slain,  
O'er all the encumber'd plain !

They now resist no more.—

Hail Wellington !

The battle's won !

The voices of Renown the tidings spread :  
Exulting England echoes thy applause ;  
Ambitious Gallia hears thy name with dread ;  
While European Freedom lifts her head,  
And hails the great Defender of her cause.  
Hero of England, with admiring eyes  
We trace in thee the noble qualities

That constitute the Chief complete :  
In others, oft, they singly shine ;  
In thee they all united meet,  
And in one galaxy their rays combine.



Nature has given thee an intrepid heart,  
That ever glows with patriotic flame,  
And with the impassion'd love of martial fame.

And gifted, too, thou art

With a strong, hardy frame,

Patient of toils and hardships. In thy mind

Deep judgment with sagacity we find ;

Coolness and firmness in rare union join'd.

In tactics versed, in all the rules of art,

By long experience taught, thou play'st the  
Chieftain's part.

Lo, now ! in vision rapt, I view

The far-famed plains of Waterloo.

As slowly, dimly dawns the morning-light,

Around the battle-field I cast my sight ;

Thrill'd with delight severe, with awe oppress,  
My labouring heart throbs wildly in my breast.  
Hail fellow-countrymen ! I trust in you,  
And in your great Commander too ;  
Hail valiant Britons ! hail brave Wellington !  
Full many a conquest have ye gain'd ;  
O ! may another, now, be soon obtain'd !  
But yonder see the great Napoleon !  
Secure of victory he proudly stands,  
Surrounded by his choicest veteran bands,  
Who welcome with loud shouts their long-loved  
Chief,  
From Elba's isle return'd, from exile brief ;  
They idolize him as the warrior-God,  
And burn with zeal to obey his voice, his nod.  
The opponent armies on each other gaze,  
And look defiance though the view dismays.

Sudden the French artillery rends the skies ;  
And the Britannic instantly replies ;  
Hundreds of brazen throats shoot forth afar  
Their iron globes, those thunderbolts of war ;  
Hundreds of soldiers fall upon the plain ;  
Some shot, expire ; more, wounded, writhe in pain.  
The cavalries to combat fiercely dash,  
And like two comets 'gainst each other clash ;  
Horses and men roll mingled on the ground,  
Confusion, slaughter, horror all around.  
Regiments of infantry form quick the square,  
And the fierce-charging horsemen firmly dare ;  
In vain to break them every means they try,  
The troops well-disciplined, the attempts defy.  
Long time in dread suspense the strife remains,  
While heaps of dead and wounded load the plains.

Angel of Britain ! guard our Hero's life !  
On that, on that depends the upshot of the fight.  
How does Napoleon's soul indignant burn !  
Resolving, now, his last resource to try,  
And urge his desperate way to victory,  
He straight commands a vast, o'erpowering force  
Of infantry, artillery, and horse,  
The centre of his stubborn foe to turn.  
Ah ! now tremendous grows the strife,  
On either side they war as Furies now ;  
What deluges of blood ! what waste of life !  
How will the mighty struggle finish ?—how ?—  
Thank heaven ! 'tis o'er,—the French, driven  
    back, retire ;  
Again I breathe—more freely I respire.  
Lo ! Bulow with the Prussian force appears !  
The British Chief with joy his cannon hears,

And, flush'd with confidence, exulting cries,  
We'll conquer yet ; advance, my friends, advance !  
Shouting they spring upon their enemies ;  
See, Wellington ! the great Napoleon flies !—  
Britannia, yet again, has triumph'd over France !

## DESCRIPTION OF A CONFLAGRATION.

---

'Tis night :—the busy, ceaseless noise of day  
No more is heard ; the now-deserted-streets  
Lie dark and silent ;—London's weary swarms  
Rest in profound repose. Hark ! a loud cry  
Frightens the silence ;—'tis the cry of fire !  
I hear the dissonance of rattling wheels,  
The tread of hasty feet, the doleful sigh  
Of sympathy, and terror's thrilling shriek :—  
O mercy heaven !—

Behold the fiery Pest !  
See, how the flames climb up the lofty walls,  
Involve their prey, and greedily devour :

The crowd exert their efforts to controul  
The spreading bane ; some labour to supply  
The numerous engines ; others bear aloft  
The pliant tubes, guiding their watery store  
Amid the fiercer fire ; on ladders some  
Ascending, scale the walls, and undeterr'd,  
Their dangerous office ply ; some wildly haste  
To save their properties : 'tis bustle all,  
And noisy tumult. Doubtful for a time  
The strife remains ; where'er the Burning winds  
His flamy spires, the well-directed streams,  
Incessant spouting, damp the sickening flames,  
Repelling their advance ; but, oft repulsed,  
As oft they rally with recruited strength :  
Alternate in the mind rise hope and fear.  
Tumbles a roof with clattering noise, the sky

Lightens, a burst of clamour !—all is hush'd  
In awful stillness, save that from beneath  
The ruins fall'n is heard a muttering sound,  
As if the Demon of the element  
In indignation menaced dire revenge.  
Ah ! now, unchain'd by some mysterious Power,  
Some Fiend of air, in league with That of fire,  
The wind begins to howl ; its breath awakes  
The sleepy flames ;—loud and more loud it howls,  
And rushes on them with collected might ;  
Before the driving spirit burst the flames  
In a redoubled tempest, and deride  
Opposing man. See ! how they proudly toss  
Their many heads on high, and through the vault  
Of darkness fling a sad, malignant day :  
Look ! with what fury, what resistless rage,



From street to street the fiery Deluge pours  
His rapid billows, swallowing everything  
In horrible destruction ; lowly roofs,  
And gorgeous mansions, lofty spires and domes  
Capacious, on whose fair, majestic tops,  
As on her throne exalted, Art assumed  
Her noblest honours, whose firm pillars braved  
Storms, and the still-corroding course of years ;  
These, these with all their wealth, the various stores  
Of luxury and commerce, to the flames  
Abandon'd, sink an undefended prey,  
Swelling the general wreck ; unheeded sink  
By their possessors, flying for their lives :  
Cries, groans, laments, on every side resound.

Sudden a magazine of nitrous grain  
Bursts in a blazing column to the clouds ;

The dread explosion shakes the solid ground,  
And through the skies in lengthening thunder  
rolls :

Driven by the furious overwhelming blast  
To distance round, the burning fragments fall  
On every side ; see, see, yon ships catch fire,  
Their rigging's in a blaze ; affrighted Thames  
Shrinks from the sight ; his waters cast a gleam  
Portentous, dismal, like the light of hell.

Before the Conflagration numbers fly  
Frighted, in throngs precipitate, to seek  
A refuge in the distant fields secure,  
Which, cover'd thick with victims of distress,  
Present a wretched world. There Youth, surprised  
By hard experience, learns, alas ! too soon

The destiny of Man ; and from those eyes  
Where expectation and unclouded joy  
Serenely shone, the streams of sorrow flow :  
There helpless Age, robb'd of the scanty means  
A life of labour earn'd, driven from his home  
To wander, destitute, the vale of years,  
Yields to despondence, tears his hoary locks,  
Falls on the ground, and eagerly implores  
Rest in the grave : there, gazing on the fires,  
The tender Mother stands,—her frenzied soul  
Glares from her look, her bosom heaves a groan,  
She hugs her crying infant to her heart,  
Despairing, lost : what countless forms of wo !  
Lethargic some, and mute ; some, giving loose  
To their distracted feelings, rave aloud  
In all the clamorous vehemence of grief.

The din subsides ;—a voice, distinctly heard,  
A frantic voice exclaims, my child ! my child !  
My child is in the flames !—Oh ! horrible !—  
What succour ? what resource ? the roaring wind  
More fiercely blows, the Burning pours along,  
The skies are lighten'd, Uproar opens wide  
His thousand mouths, Danger and Ruin prowls  
At large with boundless license, all is doubt  
And consternation, one tempestuous sea  
Of wretchedness, one chaos of despair.

Seized with wild fear Imagination sees  
The elements broke loose, Time on the brink  
Of dread Eternity, with all the signs  
Of that tremendous period when the dead  
Shall rise to judgment—hush'd in solemn awe—  
Listening the tramp of doom.—

Thus raged the storm,  
Till the great God of heaven in mercy bade  
The wind be silent, bade the gathering clouds  
Pour down abundant rain ; the raging Fires,  
In prompt obedience to the sovereign will  
Of their Creator, dwindled and expired.

## TO SPRING.

---

Fairest and loveliest of the sun-born train  
That o'er the varying year alternate reign ;  
Whose eye, soft-beaming with thy father's fire,  
Fond Nature woos with ever-fresh desire,  
Enchanting Spring ! O let thy votary's lay  
Invite thy angel smile, thy genial sway !

Still do thy beauties, to my partial heart,  
Whene'er I gaze, superior joys impart :  
When winter's cloudy veil thou draw'st away }  
And, vested with the sun's mild, dewy ray, }  
First to the longing earth thy charms thou dost }  
display ;

Or when Aurora, to the lark's gay song,  
Full of thy spirit, lightly trips along ;  
With joyful kisses greets the first-born flowers,  
And o'er them breathes thy warm, refreshing  
showers ;

Or when, on shadowy pillow in the west,  
Fann'd by thy gentlest Zephyrs into rest,  
Eve sweetly dozes, whilst, as in a dream,  
She sees the glimmerings of the solar beam  
O'er the dim landscape languishingly stray,  
On ocean's smiling face reflected play,  
Fade in the purple ether's darkening hues,  
And vernal peace and joy o'er earth diffuse.

More grateful strains, O Spring ! thy favours  
claim,  
Shine on thy beauties, and endear thy name.

While Winter's winds thy new-born charms deface,  
And the young Year starves in his cold embrace,  
The Hours, by stealth advancing, bear away,  
And on thy lap, with smiles of pleasure, lay  
The shivering Babe; new vigour there he gains,  
And spreads thy various treasures o'er the plains.

The joyous Naiades, from their icy bands  
Unfetter'd, dance and warble o'er the lands;  
The Dryads feel thy genial breath, and raise  
Their heads, new-crown'd with leaves, and whisper  
praise;

The plummy warblers wake their amorous strains;  
The herds and flocks sport o'er the fresh, green  
plains;

Fancy and Hope return the mind to bless,  
A paradise she sees and dreams of happiness.



Come, then, indulgent Ruler of the year,  
Sweet Spring! to grateful Nature ever dear!  
From the blest regions of Elysian day,  
Climes favour'd high with thy perennial sway,  
O deign to come! and let our raptured eyes  
View thee, as through a veil, in these obscurer  
skies.

Methinks, I see thee coming from afar,  
Thy beauty decks Apollo's mounting car;  
The tyrant of the north with dazzled sight  
Beholds, and, yielding, meditates his flight;  
His dread, petrific rod he long has broke,  
And freed glad Nature from his icy yoke;  
She lifts her head, and hails the approaching hour  
When she shall feel thy more propitious power.

O haste thy progress, and exert thy sway !  
In all thy charms, on some thrice-hallow'd day,  
When the soft-whispering air to Fancy's ears  
Wafts the celestial music of the spheres,  
While Pleasures, Loves, and Graces round thee fly,  
Glide on a sun-beam down the clear, blue sky ;  
Crown'd with a myrtle-wreath, begin thy reign ;  
Bid lingering Winter fly with all his train ;  
Pour forth thy favours o'er this western isle,  
And let each grateful eye reflect thy smile.

## TO WINTER.

---

No longer Beauty's many-colour'd robe  
Adorns the autumnal scene ; no longer play  
The Zephyrs with her tresses ; she has fled  
To happier regions, and has left the year  
Naked and void of charms ; the leafless woods  
Tremble no more with rapture at the voice  
Of harmony : ah ! how is Nature changed !  
Silent, and sad, she anxiously awaits  
Thy coming, mighty King ! and, as the sun  
Less bright, less ardent, more and more declines  
Towards the horizon, with alarm she marks  
Thy shadow lengthening in the nightly shade  
And towering o'er her, prostrate as she lies,

More threatening, more gigantic ; till, at length,  
Boreas, thy harbinger, forth-rushing fierce,  
Tears from chill'd Autumn's head the withering  
Crown,  
And blustering loud in her affrighted ear,  
O Winter ! tells thy terrible approach.

Behold ! in awful majesty thou comest !  
On huge, black clouds, that through the encum-  
ber'd sky,  
Before the northern blast, sail slowly on,  
Thou ridest sublime ; aloft in ether towers  
Thy giant form ; thy formidable frown  
Blackens the night ; thy threatening voice, sent  
forth  
Upon the impetuous winds, affrights the world.

Yet dare I welcome thee, terrific Power !  
Dread Winter, hail ! thy terrors fill my soul  
With a delightful awe ; I love to trace  
Thy varying scenes, the wonders of thy reign.  
Thy Ministers await thy sovereign will,  
And, in the secret regions of the air,  
In cloudy magazines prepare thy stores  
Of snow, and rain, and hail. At thy command  
Frost, that invisible, mysterious Power,  
Breathes upon Nature, and thou see'st her soon  
An unresisting captive, bound in ice ;  
Vainly she mourns, till, at thy bidding, Thaw  
With his damp, misty standard, from the south  
Comes creeping silently, and sets her free ;  
She weeps for joy. Ah ! now thou dost unchain  
The Demon of the tempest, to exert

On tortured Nature thy tyrannic might ;  
Fierce on the whirlwind's wing he rushes forth  
With dreadful bellowings, hurling all around  
Destructive deluges of rain, snow, hail,  
In wildest discord, and chaotic war  
Mingling earth, sea, and sky. All-potent Lord !  
Dread Winter ! though Sublimity appears  
Thy chief attendant, and partakes thy throne ;  
Yet Beauty often visits thee, and dares,  
In many a scene, with the more powerful charms  
Of her majestic sister to combine  
Her pleasing graces : I delight to view  
Thy snowy robe of purest, glowing white,  
The clear, blue skies, the cheerful evergreen  
Amid the wintry desert, from whose boughs  
The little redbreast chirps ; the trees and herbs

With snow and hoarfrost fringed, to fancy's eye  
Presenting pictured shapes, and, when the sun  
Sheds o'er them his effulgence, sparkling keen  
With million living particles of light.

But with far nobler transport I survey  
Thy nightly scene, O Winter ! when by frost  
Refined and clear'd, the pure transpicuous air  
Through her thin, azure veil, to wondering man  
Displays the unclouded heavens, myriads of stars  
Shining in all their glory : at the view  
Rapt Contemplation, in her car of light,  
Expatriates in the interminable space,  
Ranging from world to world, from sun to sun,  
O'erwhelm'd with wonder and astonishment,  
And sacred awe, till lifting up her eyes,

She sees Religion, from the opening gate  
Of heaven itself, on her seraphic wings  
Smiling descend ; she feels her power divine,  
And raptured hymns the great Creator's praise.



## THE DESPERATION AND MADNESS OF GUILT.

---

In depth of loneliest wood, amid the din  
Of midnight storm and thunder, spoke Despair,  
While Horror, shuddering, heard that voice alone.  
Oh ! load of guilt ! relentless misery !  
Still, ever still the same where'er I fly ;  
No peace, no hope, not one poor moment's glimpse  
Through all the blackness of eternity !  
Monster of direst guilt ! this mother's hand  
Murder'd my babe, my new-born innocent.  
I seek not mercy, no !—long sought in vain  
While conscience prey'd upon my secret heart,

Wasting its life in agonizing groans,  
And floods of scalding tears,—but now no more ;  
Those pangs are past, this heart is wither'd, dead !  
Changed all to crime, all rottenness and stench ;  
'Twould taint creation were it not confined.  
Parch'd are these eyes, their sorrows turn'd to ice,  
A mountain of impenetrable ice,  
In whose unfathom'd centre lies my soul,  
Imprison'd, numb'd, buried in conscious death.  
O could I cease to think ! cease quite to be !  
O could I live in torments ! writhe in hell !  
Raptures to this ! Rouse, rouse to life, my soul,  
In madness of despair, O burst thy tomb ;  
Call God and devils to behold thy guilt,  
And blast thee. (*It lightens.*)

See, what sudden blaze ! they come !

Welcome, O welcome ! follow me, look there !  
There lies my murder'd babe :—now strike !—  
avenge ! *(It thunders.)*

O'erwhelming stroke !

*(She falls upon the ground insensible :—  
at length, coming to herself)—*

Ah ! am I conscious still ?

Not blasted then ?—does this one little spark

Amidst a universe of solid gloom

Still live ? I'll try to quench it with my blood.

Come, dagger, pierce, pierce deep ; I feel thy  
point ;

My blood flows fast, it animates my heart.

The gathering cloud of death grows thick and  
dark,

It hangs oppressive on my swimming sight :

See, see, the Spirit of my murder'd child  
Comes with a troop of demons to conduct  
My soul to hell ;—they seize me for their prey,  
They drag me down : Oh ! horror ! horror ! oh !

*(She dies.)*

## ON HEARING THE NIGHTINGALE.

---

Thanks for thy song, sweet Bird ! thanks for thy  
song !

O ! 'twas delightful ; how have I been lost  
As in a blissful dream ! how has my soul  
Been wafted in a sea of melody !  
Scarce yet am I awake, yet scarce myself :  
Still with the enchanting music's dying breath  
The air is kept in motion, and conveys  
Sweet whispers to the finely-listening ear ;  
Or is it but an echo from the cell  
Of memory that deludes my doating sense ?  
Ah ! now 'tis gone ; Silence resumes her sway,

And o'er my hearing spreads her subtile web ;  
But she resumes it, changed, methinks, in nature,  
More soft, more amiable, as if inform'd  
With the departed soul of harmony.

Thanks for thy song, sweet Bird ! it well deserves  
All my heart's gratitude ; for it has still'd  
Its anxious throbbings, and removed the load  
Of sadness that oppress'd the springs of life :  
More lightly now it beats, and welcomes back  
The glowing tide of health, and conscious feels  
The blessing of existence. It imparts  
To all my frame reanimating force ;  
My nerves partake of its elastic spring ;  
No longer falsely sentient, they receive  
The just impression from external things,

Vibrate harmoniously to Nature's touch,  
And in her general concert bear a part.

Thanks, sweetest Bird! enchanting Nightingale!  
How by the magic influence of thy song,  
How am I changed from what, of late, I was!  
And every object, too, how seems it changed!  
This wood, when first I enter'd it, appear'd  
To Fancy's eye the haunt of Melancholy,  
Her dreariest haunt, where, in her saddest mood,  
The Goddess loved to dwell;—'twas lonesome  
gloom,

And awful stillness all: I felt her power;  
The imaginative Spirit she o'erwhelm'd  
With a mysterious load of shapeless feeling:  
Her leaden hand oppress'd my labouring heart;

Upon the ground I sank,—scarce sensible,  
And buried, as it were, in conscious death.

With what soft influence, what resistless power,  
Did thy mellifluous strain, kind Philomel !

Insinuate itself into my ear,

Melting its dull unwillingness to listen,

And opening soon a passage to my heart !

But thou beginn'st again, be hush'd my soul !

O wondrous power of heavenly harmony !

See, Philomel ! the Goddess of the night,

Charm'd with thy strains her cloudy veil with-  
draws,

And pays thee with a smile of gratitude ;

A smile that to her beauty adds new charms,

Enchanting heaven and earth, while Melancholy,



Sighing away her sadness, lifts her head,  
And, gazing on her tutelary Power  
With eyes reflecting soft her dewy light,  
Feels her divinest inspiration steal  
Into her melting soul, absorb'd in heaven.  
My sympathizing heart with bliss o'erflows.  
Thanks sweetest Nightingale! thanks for thy song!  
Long on this night shall grateful memory doat ;  
And oft to this loved wood will I return.

## TO PAGANINI.

---

Long to the world have all the mouths of Fame,  
O Paganini ! thunder'd forth thy name ;  
Nations have vied their plausible voice to raise,  
And swell the general chorus of thy praise.  
Though not so loud, more dear the applause to  
thee

Of all the favour'd sons of harmony,  
Who, with one full consent, admiring own  
Thee as their master—monarch—thee alone ;  
And humbly bow before thee on thy throne.

O'er all musicians thou stand'st far apart ;  
Thou hast created for thyself an art.

As, in the natural world, around the sun  
The planets their career of brightness run,  
Each moving in an orbit of its own,  
And all obeying laws to science known.  
Musicians thus, each blest with his degree  
Of talent by the God of harmony,  
Shine forth distinguish'd in their several ways,  
While every one the rules of art obeys.  
We calculate the merits of their name,  
And pay them their proportion'd share of fame.  
Not thus in Honour's region thou career'st ;  
Thou comet-like to fancy's ken appear'st,  
Like comet, blazing in its bold career,  
That leaves behind the planetary sphere,  
And rushes towards the centre of the sun  
Till with Apollo's self it seems but one.

A Genius, an Original, art thou,  
Such as the astounded world ne'er heard till now.  
When thou dost take thy magic bow in hand  
What mortal ear the enchantment can withstand?  
Transported, we admire thy peerless skill;  
Thou movest our feelings, passions, at thy will;  
With fear we tremble, we with anger glow,  
Soft from our eyes the tears of pity flow;  
Or when thou play'st a gay, fantastic strain,  
From mirth and laughter who can then refrain?  
Such is thy music's power to rule the heart,  
Thou may'st be call'd the Shakspeare of thine art.

## TO FANCY.

---

O ! what a nameless feeling of delight  
Stole o'er my wondering spirit, like a gleam  
From opening heaven !—dost thou, then, Fancy,  
deign

Once more to visit me ? thou dost ! thou dost !  
That breath of extacy, that heavenly light,  
Flow'd from the wafture of thy angel wings,  
And from thy smiling eyes : divinest Power !  
Welcome, thrice welcome ! O vouchsafe to make  
My breast thy temple, and my heart thy shrine !  
Still will I worship thee, and thou shalt keep,  
In peace, thy new abode, nor fear the approach  
Of aught profane or hostile, to disturb

Thy holy mysteries ; for I will chase  
Far from the hallow'd precincts where thou  
dwell'st

Each worldly passion, every grovelling thought,  
And all the train of Vice ; striving to make  
The shrine well-worthy its celestial guest.

Still will I worship thee, and oft invoke  
Thine inspirations, and with transport yield  
To thy sweet, magic influence all my soul :  
The slightest breath of thine inspiring voice  
Shall wake my nerves, most feelingly alive,  
And bid them tremble with poetic bliss.

The frown of Reason thou no more shalt fear ;  
Did I say Reason's frown ?—no !—'twas the frown  
Of false Philosophy, her foolish pride.

Reason and Thou are sisters, born to rule  
Unitedly, in happiest harmony,  
The mind of man ; and in the heaven-sent hour  
Of inspiration, from the self-same source  
Ye pour the stream of mingled light and flame  
That animates, illumines, and warms the soul.  
How could I e'er desert thee, loveliest Nymph !  
To court thy rival, false Philosophy ?  
How could I quit thy verdant, flowery walks,  
To tread with painful toil the briary maze  
Of metaphysic lore ? Indulgent Power !  
The offence forgive. Lured by the specious name,  
Philosophy, and by her meteor rays  
Misled, with fond presumptuousness I strove  
To penetrate the dark, unfathom'd depth  
Where Truth in awful mystery resides.

Not deigning in thy mirror to behold  
Her image, though in loveliest beauty clad,  
With lawless curiosity I sought  
To view the Goddess in her naked form.

But heaven to man, nor angel gives to scan  
Truth's very self; she lives for ever hid,  
Shrined in the bosom of Divinity.

Long wandering mid the chaos, I at length  
Approach'd the border of the cold, dark waste,  
The bottomless abyss, the dreadful void  
Of scepticism; affrighted, back I shrunk.

O Fancy! ne'er will I forsake thee more,  
Nor view thee with severe, truth-searching eye,  
Melting thy fairy visions into air.  
Thy paradise, delighted, let me rove,



There study nature, and with grateful heart,  
In thy serene, translucent stream behold  
The light of truth reflected, and the smile  
Of heaven's benevolence, and in that glass  
The loveliness of every Virtue woo  
And every Grace. There let me, too, behold  
In all her beauty, bright-eyed Poesy,  
That heavenly Maid who charm'd my youthful  
heart ;

And let the love of glory fire my breast ;  
And let me see, to stimulate my powers,  
The new-born crescent of my fame ascend,  
While on its pointed horn the Fairy, Hope,  
On tiptoe stands, fluttering her airy wings  
To fan its beams and joyful hails the hour  
When in its full-orb'd glory it shall shine.

## A SUMMER-EVENING.

---

Come, my dear Love, and let us climb yon hill,  
The prospect, from its height, will well reward  
The toil of climbing; thence we shall command  
The various beauties of the landscape round.—  
Now we have reached the top. O ! what a scene  
Opens upon the sight, and swallows up  
The admiring soul ! She feels as if from earth  
Uplifted into heaven. Scarce can she yet  
Collect herself, and exercise her powers.  
While o'er heaven's lofty, wide-extended arch,  
And round the vast horizon, the bold eye  
Shoots forth her view, with what sublime delight  
The bosom swells ! See, where the God of day,

Who through the cloudless ether long has rid  
On his bright, fiery car, amidst a blaze  
Of dazzling glory, and in wrath shot round  
His burning arrows, with tyrannic power  
Oppressing Nature, now, his daily course  
Well-nigh completed, toward the western goal  
Declines, and with less awful majesty  
Concludes his reign ; his flamy chariot hid  
In floods of golden light that dazzles still,  
Though less intense. O ! how these scenes exalt  
The throbbing heart ! Louisa, canst thou bear  
These strong emotions ? do they not o'erpower  
Thy tender nerves ? I fear, my Love, they do ;  
Those eyes that, late, with transport beam'd so  
    bright,  
Now veil their rays with the soft, dewy shade

Of tenderness. Let us repose awhile ;  
The roots of yonder tree, cover'd with moss,  
Present a pleasing seat ; there let us sit.  
Hark ! Zephyr wakes, and sweetly-whispering,  
tells

The approach of Eve ; already Nature feels  
Her soothing influence, her refreshing breath ;  
The fields, the trees, imbibe the cool, moist air,  
Their feverish thirst allay, and smile revived.  
The Soul, too, feels her influence, sweetly soothed  
Into a tender calm. O ! let us now,  
My loved Louisa ! let us now enjoy  
The landscape's charms, and all the nameless  
sweets

Of this, our favourite hour, for ever dear  
To Fancy and to Love. Cast round thy sight

Upon the altered scene, nor longer fear  
The dazzling sun ; his latest, lingering beams  
Where are they ? can'st thou find them ?—see !

they gild

The glittering top of yonder village-spire ;  
Upon that distant hill they faintly shine ;  
And look ! the topmost boughs of this tall oak  
Majestic, which o'ercanopies our heads,  
Yet catch their tremulous glimmerings :—now

they fade,

Fade and expire ; and, as they fade, the Moon,  
The full-orb'd Moon, that seem'd, erewhile, to

melt

In the bright azure, from the darkening sky  
Emerging slow, and silent, sheds around  
Her snowy light, that with the day's last, dim

Reflection, from the broad, translucid lake,  
Insensibly commingles, and unites  
In sweetest harmony, o'er all the scene  
Diffusing magic tints, enchanting power.  
How lovely every object now appears !  
Each in itself, and how they all combine  
In one delightful whole ! What eye, what heart,  
O Nature ! can resist thy potent charms  
When thus in soft, transparent shade half-veil'd ?  
Now Beauty and Sublimity, methinks,  
Upon the lap of Eve, embracing sleep.  
Mark the tree-tops, my Love, of yonder wood,  
Whose moonlight foliage fluctuates in the breeze,  
Say, do they not, in figure, motion, hue,  
Resemble the sea-waves at misty dawn ?  
What shadowy shape along the troubled lake  
Comes this way moving ? how mysteriously

It glides along ! how indistinct its form !  
Imagination views with sweet surprise  
The unknown appearance—breathless in suspense.  
The Spirit of the waters can it be,  
On his aerial car ? some fairy Power ?  
Pants not thy heart, Louisa, half-alarm'd ?  
It grows upon the sight,—strange, watery sounds  
Attend its course ;—hark ! was not that a voice ?  
O ! 'tis a fishing-boat !—its sails and oars  
I now discern. The church-clock strikes ! how  
    loud  
Burst forth its sound into the startled air,  
That feels it still, and trembles far around !  
My dearest Love ! it summons us away ;  
The dew begins to fall ; let us depart :  
How sweetly have we spent this evening-hour !

## PROLOGUE.

---

The piece, to-night, is of peculiar kind,  
For which the appropriate name is hard to find ;  
No Comedy, 'tis clear ; nor can it be,  
With strictest truth, pronounced a Tragedy ;  
Since, though predominant the tragic tone,  
It reigns not uniformly and alone ;  
Then, that its character be best proclaim'd,  
A Tragic-drama let the piece be named.

But do not, Critics ! rashly hence conclude,  
'Tis a mere Farce, incongruous and rude,  
Where incidents in strange confusion blend,  
Without connexion, interest, or end :



Not so ;—far different was the bard's design ;  
For though, at times, he ventures to combine  
With grave Melpomene's impassion'd strain  
The gay Thalia's more enlivening vein ;  
(As all mankind with one consent agree  
How strong the charms of sweet variety,)  
Yet Reason's path he still with care observes,  
And ne'er from Taste with wilful blindness swerves,  
His plot conducting by the rules of art :  
And, above all, he strives to touch the heart ;  
Knowing that, void of pathos and of fire,  
Art, Reason, Taste, are vain, and quickly tire.

Be mindful then, ye Critics ! of the intent ;  
The poet means not here to represent  
The tragic Muse in all her terrors drest,

With might tempestuous to convulse the breast ;  
Nor in her statelier, unrelaxing mien,  
To stalk, in buskin'd pomp, through every scene ;  
But with an air more mild and versatile,  
Where fear and grief, sometimes, admit a smile, }  
Now loftier, humbler now, the changing style, }  
Resembling in effect an April-night  
When from the clouds, by fits, the moon throws  
    forth her light ;  
And louder winds, by turns, their rage appease,  
Succeeded by the simply-whispering breeze.

But, in few words our author ends his plea,  
Already tending to prolixity,  
To paint from Nature was his leading aim ;  
Let then, the play your candid hearing claim :

Judge it, impartial, by dramatic laws ;  
If good, reward it with deserved applause ;  
If bad, condemn ; yet be it still exempt  
From your severer blame, for 'tis a first attempt.

## PROLOGUE.

---

Lo ! Time, at last, has brought, with tardy flight,  
The long-anticipated, wish'd-for night ;  
How on this blissful night, while yet remote,  
Did Hope and Fancy with fond rapture doat !  
Like eagles, oft, in glory's dazzling sky,  
With full-stretch'd pinions have they soar'd on  
    high,  
To greet the appearance of the poet's name,  
Dawning conspicuous mid the stars of fame.

Alas ! they soar not now ;—the demon, Fear,  
Has hurl'd the cherubs from their heavenly sphere :  
Fancy, o'erwhelm'd with terror, grovelling lies ;—  
The world of torment opens on her eyes,

Darkness and hissing all she sees and hears ;—

*(The speaker pauses—the audience are  
supposed to clap, when he continues,)*

But Hope, returning to dispel her fears,  
Claps her bright wings ; the magic sound and light  
At once have forced their dreaded foe to flight,  
Silenced the hissing, chased the darkness round,  
And charm'd up marvelling Fancy from the  
ground.

Say, shall the cherubs dare once more to fly ?  
Not, as of late, in glory's dazzling sky,  
To greet the appearance of the poet's name,  
Dawning conspicuous mid the stars of fame ;  
Presumptuous flight ! but let them dare to rise,  
Cheer'd by the light of your propitious eyes,

Within this roof, glory's contracted sphere,  
On fluttering pinions, unsubdued by Fear ;  
O ! let them dare, ere yet the curtain draws,  
Fondly anticipate your kind applause.

## EPILOGUE.

---

Perplexing case!—your pardon, Friends, I pray,—  
My head so turns, I know not what to say ;—  
However, since I've dared to come before ye,  
I'll stop the whirligig,—

*( Clapping his hand to his forehead, )*

and tell my story :

Though 'tis so strange, that I've a pre-conviction  
It may by some, perhaps, be judged a fiction.

Learn, gentle Audience, then, with just surprise,  
That, when, to-night, you saw the curtain rise,  
Our poet's epilogue was still unwrit :

The devil take him for neglecting it!  
Nay though,—'twas not neglected ; 'twas deferr'd  
From certain motives—which were most absurd ;  
For, trusting blindly to his rhyming vein,  
And still-prepared inventiveness of brain,  
He'd form'd the whimsical, foolhardy plan,  
To set about it when the play began ;  
Thus purposing the drama's fate to know,  
Then write his epilogue quite à propos.

The time at last arrives—the signal rings,  
Sir Bard, alarm'd, to pen and paper springs,  
And, snug in listening-corner, near the scene,  
With open'd ears, eyes, mouth-suspended mien,—  
Watches opinion's breezes as they blow,  
To kindle fancy's fire, and bid his verses flow.



Now I, kind Auditors ! by fortune's spite  
Was doom'd, alack ! to speak what he should  
write,

And therefore, as you'll naturally suppose,  
Could not forbear, at times, to cock my nose  
Over his shoulder, curiously to trace  
His progress ;—zounds ! how snail-like was his  
pace !

Feeling, at length, my sore-tried patience sicken,  
Good Sir, I cried, your tardy motions quicken :  
'Tis the fourth act, high time, Sir, to have done !  
As if his ear had been the touch-hole of a gun,  
My tongue a match, the Bard, on fire, exploded ;  
He was—excuse the pun—with grape high-loaded.  
Hence, prating fool ! return'd he, in a roar,  
Push'd me out, neck and heels, and bang'd the  
door.

But lest, here too, like hazard I should run ;  
I'll end my story. When the play was done,  
The epilogue was—look ! 'tis here—begun :  
Such as it is, however, if you will,  
I'll read it ; shall I, Friends ?      (*They clap.*)

Your orders I fulfil.

(*He reads.*)

'Tis come ! the fateful hour ! list ! list ! the bell  
Summons me—Duncan-like, to heaven or hell ;  
See, see, the curtain draws ;—it now commences ;  
Fear and suspense have frozen up my senses :  
But let me to my task :—what noise is this ?  
They're clapping, clapping, O ye gods, what bliss !  
Now then, to work, my pen :—descend, O Muse !  
Thine inspiration through my soul infuse ;  
Prompt such an epilogue as ne'er before  
Has been imagined,—never will be more.

What subject ? hark ! new louder plaudits rise,  
I'm fired, and, like a rocket, to the skies  
Dart up triumphantly in flames of light :—  
They hiss, I'm quench'd, and sink in shades of  
night.

Again they clap, O extacy !—

Having thus far indulged his rhyming vein,  
He halts,—reads,—curses,—and begins again ;  
But not a single couplet could he muster ;  
How should he, with his soul in such a fluster,  
All rapture, gratitude, for your applause ?  
Be then, the effect excused in favour of the cause !

## LINES

ON THE DEATH OF THE REV. MR. B.

(SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY MISS B \* \* \*, HIS SISTER.)

---

At God's command the vital spirit fled,  
And thou, my Brother! slumber'st with the dead.  
Alas! how art thou changed! I scarcely dare  
To gaze on thee;—dread sight! death, death is  
there.

How does thy loss o'erwhelm my heart with grief!  
But tears, kind nature's tears afford relief.  
Reluctant, sad, I take my last farewell:—  
Thy virtues in my mind shall ever dwell;  
Thy tender friendship felt so long for me,  
Thy frankness, truth, thy generosity,

Thy tuneful tongue's persuasive eloquence,  
Thy science, learning, taste, wit, common sense,  
Thy patriot love of genuine liberty,  
Thy heart o'erflowing with philanthropy ;  
And chiefly will I strive henceforth to feel  
Thy firm religious faith and pious zeal,  
Enlighten'd, liberal, free from bigotry,  
And, that prime excellence, thy charity.  
Farewell!—for ever?—no ! forbid it, Heaven !  
A glorious promise is to Christians given ;  
Though parted in this world of sin and pain,  
On high, my Brother ! we shall meet again.

## LINES TO AN INFIDEL,

AFTER HAVING READ HIS BOOK AGAINST CHRISTIANITY.

---

Your book I've read : I would that I had not !  
For what instruction, pleasure, have I got ?  
Amid that artful labyrinth of doubt  
Long, long I wander'd, striving to get out ;  
Your thread of sophistry, my only clue,  
I fondly hoped would guide me rightly through :  
That spider's web entangled me the more :  
With desperate courage onward still I went,  
Until my head was turn'd, my patience spent :  
Now, now, at last, thank God ! the task is o'er.

I've been a child, who whirls himself about,  
Fancying he sees both earth and heaven turn  
    round ;  
Till giddy, panting, sick, and wearied out,  
He falls, and rues his folly on the ground.

## LINES

ON HEARING A YOUNG GENTLEMAN, WHO IS BOTH LAME  
AND BLIND, BUT IN OTHER RESPECTS VERY HANDSOME,  
SING AND PLAY ON HIS VIOLIN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

---

Crippled his limbs, and sightless are his eyes ;  
I view the youth, and feel compassion rise.  
He sings! how sweet the notes! in pleased amaze  
I listen,—listen, and admiring gaze.  
Still, as he catches inspiration's fire,  
Sweeping with bolder hands the obedient strings,  
That mix, harmonious, with the strains he sings,  
He pours into the music all his soul,  
And governs mine with strong, but soft controul :  
Raptured I glow, and more and more admire.



His mortal ailments I no longer see ;  
But, of divinities my fancy dreams ;  
Blind was the enchanting God of soft desire ;  
And lame the powerful Deity of fire ;  
His bow the magic rod of Hermes seems ;  
And in his voice I hear the God of harmony.

## LINES TO A PEDANTIC CRITIC.

---

Critic! should I vouchsafe to learn of thee,  
Correct, no doubt, but cold my strains would be :  
Now, cold correctness !—I despise the name ;  
Is that a passport through the gates of fame ?  
Thy pedant rules with care I studied once ;  
Was I made wiser, or a greater dunce ?  
Hence, Critic, hence ! I'll study them no more ;  
My eyes are open'd, and the folly's o'er.  
When Genius opes the floodgates of the soul,  
Fancy's outbursting tides impetuous roll,  
Onward they rush with unresisted sway,  
Sweeping fools, pedants, critics, all away  
Who would with obstacles their progress stay.

As mighty Ocean bids his waves comply  
With the great luminaries of the sky,  
So Genius, to direct his course aright,  
Owns but one guide, the inspiring God of light.

## LINES ON SHAKSPEARE.

(SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN NEAR HIS TOMB.)

---

Behold ! this marble tablet bears inscribed  
The name of Shakspeare !—

What a glorious theme  
For never-ending praise ! His drama's page,  
Like a clear mirror, to our wondering view  
Displays the living image of the world,  
And all the different characters of men :  
Still, in the varying scenes, or sad, or gay,  
We take a part ; we weep ; we laugh ; we feel  
All the strong sympathies of real life.  
To him alone, of mortals, Fancy lent

Her magic wand, potent to conjure up  
Ideal Forms, distinctly character'd,  
Exciting fear, or wonder, or delight.

The works of Shakspeare ! are they not a fane,  
Majestic as the canopy of heaven,  
Embracing all created things, a fane  
His superhuman genius has upraised,  
To Nature consecrate ? The Goddess there  
For ever dwells, and from her sanctuary,  
By Shakspeare's voice, her poet and high-priest,  
Reveals her awful mysteries to man,  
And with her power divine rules every heart.  
At Shakspeare's name, then, bow down all ye sons  
Of learning, and of art ! ye men, endow'd  
With talent, taste ! ye nobler few who feel

The genuine glow of genius ! bow down all  
In admiration ! with deep feeling own  
Your littleness, your insignificance ;  
And with one general voice due homage pay  
To Nature's Poet, Fancy's best-loved Child !

## LINES ON MILTON.

(SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN NEAR HIS TOMB.)

---

Milton !—

the name of that divinest Bard

Acts on Imagination like a charm

Of holiest power ;—with deep, religious awe

She hails the sacred spot where sleep entomb'd

The relics that enshrined his godlike soul.

O ! with what heartfelt interest and delight,

With what astonishment, will all the sons

Of Adam, till the end of time, peruse

His lofty, wondrous page ! with what just pride

Will England ever boast her Milton's name,

The Poet matchless in sublimity !  
E'en now in Memory's raptured ear resound  
The deep-toned strains of the Miltonic lyre ;  
Inspiring virtuous, heart-ennobling thought,  
They breathe of heaven ; the imaginative Power  
No longer treads the guilt-polluted world,  
But soars aloft, and draws empyreal air :  
Rapt Faith anticipates the judgment-hour,  
When, at the Archangel's call, the dead shall wake  
With frames resuscitated, glorified :  
Then, then ! in strains like these, the sainted Bard,  
Conspicuous mid salvation's earth-born heirs,  
Shall join harmoniously the heavenly choir,  
And sing the Saviour's praise in endless bliss.



## ANACREONTIC.

---

Still, as the fleeting seasons change,  
From joy to joy poor mortals range,  
And as the year pursues its round,  
One pleasure's lost, another found ;  
Time, urging on his envious course,  
Still drives them from their last resource.  
So butterflies, when children chase  
The gaudy prize with eager pace,  
On each fresh flower but just alight,  
And, ere they taste, renew their flight.

Thanks to kind Fortune ! I possess  
A constant source of happiness,

And am not poorly forced to live  
On what the seasons please to give.  
Let clouds or sunshine vest the pole,  
What care I, while I quaff the bowl?  
In that secure, I can defy  
The changeful temper of the sky.  
No weatherglass, or if I be,  
Thou, Bacchus ! art my Mercury.

## ANACREONTIC.

---

Let us, my Friends, our mirth forbear,  
While yonder Censor mounts the chair :  
His form erect, his stately pace,  
His huge, white wig, his solemn face,  
His scowling brows, his ken severe,  
His haughty pleasure-chiding sneer,  
Some high Philosopher declare :—  
Hush ! let us hear him from the chair :

‘ Ye giddy youths ! I hate your mirth ;  
How ill-beseeming sons of earth !  
Know ye not well the fate of man ?  
That death is certain, life a span ?

That merriment soon sinks in sorrow,  
Sunshine to-day, and clouds to-morrow?  
Hearken then, fools ! to Reason's voice,  
That bids ye mourn, and not rejoice ?

Such gloomy thoughts, grave Sage ! are thine,  
Now, gentle Friends ! attend to mine.

Since mortals must die,  
Since life's but a span,  
'Tis wisdom, say I,  
To live while we can,  
And fill up with pleasure  
The poor little measure.  
Of fate to complain  
How simple and vain !  
Long faces I hate ;  
They shorten the date.

My Friends ! while ye may,  
Be jovial to-day ;  
The things that will be  
Ne'er wish to foresee ;  
Or, should ye employ  
Your thoughts on to-morrow,  
Let Hope sing of joy,  
Not Fear croak of sorrow.

But see ! the Sage flies, so no more.

Now, Friends ! drink and sing, as before.

## ANACREONTIC.

---

Why must Poets, when they sing,  
Drink of the Castalian spring ?  
Sure 'tis chilling to the brain ;  
Witness many a modern strain :  
Poets ! would ye sing with fire,  
Wine, not water, must inspire.  
Come, then, pour thy purple stream,  
Lovely Bottle ! thou'rt my theme.  
How within thy crystal frame  
Does the rosy nectar flame !  
Not so beauteous on the vine  
Did the clustering rubies shine,  
When the potent God of day  
Fill'd them with his ripening ray ;

When with proudness and delight  
Bacchus view'd the charming sight.  
Still it keeps Apollo's fires ;  
Still the vintage-God admires.  
Hail sweet antidote of wo !  
Chiefest blessing mortals know !  
Nay, the mighty powers divine  
Own the magic force of wine.  
Wearied with the world's affairs,  
Jove himself, to drown his cares,  
Bids the nectar'd goblet bear :  
Lo ! the youthful Hebe fair  
Pours the living draught around ;—  
Hark ! with mirth the skies resound.  
'Tis to wine, for aught I know,  
Deities their godship owe ;

Don't we mortals owe to wine  
Manhood, and each spark divine ?  
Say, thou life-inspiring Bowl,  
Who thy heavenly treasure stole ?  
Not the hand that stole Jove's fire  
Did so happily aspire ;  
Tell the lucky spoiler's name,  
Worthy never-dying fame.  
Since it must a secret be,  
Him I'll praise, in praising thee.  
Glory of the social treat !  
Source of friendly converse sweet !  
Source of cheerfulness and sense,  
Humour, wit, and eloquence,  
Courage and sincerity,  
Candour and philanthropy !



Source of—O thou bounteous wine !

What the good that is not thine ?

Were my nerves relax'd and low ?

Did my chill blood toil on slow ?

When thy spirit through me flows,

How each vital function glows !

Tuned, my nerves, no longer coy,

Answer to the touch of joy :

On the steams, that from thee rise,

Time on swifter pinions flies ;

Fancy gilds them with her rays ;

Hope amid the rainbow plays.

But behold ! what Image bright

Rises heavenly to my sight !

Could such wondrous charms adorn

Venus, when from ocean born ?

Say, my Julia, is it thou,  
Ever lovely, loveliest now ?  
Yet, methinks, the Cyprian Queen  
Comes herself, but takes thy mien.  
Goddess ! I confess thy power,  
And to love devote the hour,  
Let me but, with grateful soul,  
Greet once more the bounteous Bowl.

## SONG.

---

Ere Reason rose within my breast,  
To enforce her sacred law,  
Still would some charm, in every maid,  
My veering passions draw.

But now, to calm those gales of night,  
The morn her light displays ;  
The twinkling stars no more I view,  
For only Venus sways :

The spotless heaven of genuine love  
Unveil'd I wondering see,  
And all that heaven, transported, claim  
For Julia and for me.

## SONG.

---

Yes, I could love, could softly yield  
To passion all my willing breast,  
And fondly listen to the voice  
That oft invites me to be blest ;

That still, when Fancy, lost in bliss,  
Stands gazing on the form divine,  
So sweetly whispers to my soul,  
O make the heavenly Julia thine !

But hush, thou fascinating voice !  
Hence visionary extacy !

Yes, I could love, but ah ! I fear  
She would not deign to smile on me.

## SONG TO BACCHUS.

---

Come along, jolly Bacchus ! no longer delay ;  
See'st thou not how the table with bottles is  
crown'd ?

See'st thou not how thy votaries, impatient to pay  
Their devotion to thee, are all waiting around ?  
O come then, propitious to our invocation,  
To preside of thy rites at the solemnization.

Hark ! the voice of Champagne, from its prison  
set free,

And the music of glasses that merrily ring,  
Thy arrival announce, and invite us to glee ;

With what gladness we welcome thee, vine-  
crowned King !

To honour thee, Bacchus ! we pour a libation,  
And the lofty roof echoes our loud salutation.

On that wine-loaded altar, erected to thee,  
Sherry, burgundy, claret, invitingly shine ;  
While all thy rich gifts thus collected we see,  
We greet thy munificence boundless, divine.  
From these we already inhale animation,  
Our hearts and heads warmth, and our souls  
elevation.

As thy nectar, kind Bacchus ! more copiously  
flows,  
We purge off the cold dregs that are earthy,  
profane ;

Each breast with thy own godlike character  
glows;

There truth, generosity, happiness reign.

Hail Bacchus ! we hail thee in high exultation ;

Thou hast blest us, kind God ! with thy full  
inspiration.

## ON SEEING THE APOLLO BELVIDERE.

What majesty ! what elegance and grace !  
The form how perfect ! how divine the face !  
In admiration rapt, I gazing stand :—  
Is this a statue wrought by mortal hand ?  
No ! 'tis Apollo's self, methinks I see ;  
I feel the presence of the Deity.

---

## INSCRIPTION FOR THE APOLLO BELVIDERE.

O all ye Sons of Taste ! with raptured sight  
Behold this image of the God of light ;  
Admire its whole, admire its every part ;  
'Tis sculpture's master-work, the boast of Art.  
Not with more glory in his heavenly sphere  
The God appears, than in his Image here.



## EPITAPH ON NELSON.

---

Lo ! here are Nelson's honour'd relics laid ;—  
Britons ! your Country's Genius calls you here,  
And bids you pay to your lost Hero's shade  
The noble homage of a patriot tear.

Against the fleets of Gallia, Denmark, Spain,  
Full oft Britannia's war-bolts he has hurl'd ;  
Stretch'd forth her sceptre o'er the vanquish'd  
main,  
And with her glory fill'd the astonish'd world.

His matchless triumphs shall the voice of Fame,  
With loud applause, to latest ages tell ;  
Still uttering with a sigh Trafalgar's name,  
Where last he conquer'd, where—alas ! he fell.

## EPITAPH ON HOWARD.

---

Ye! who this hallow'd ground with reverence tread,  
Where sleep in honour'd urns the illustrious dead,  
To trace the achievements of the Sons of Fame,  
And pay just worship to each godlike name ;  
(If, blest with hearts that melt at human wo,  
And feel philanthropy's celestial glow,)  
Midst all the monuments that court your view,  
And claim the debt to buried merit due,  
Mark chiefly this ;—on this with tearful eyes  
More fondly gaze ;—beneath it Howard lies !

O'er other urns mere mortals only mourn ;  
Celestial Beings honour Howard's urn ;  
Benevolence sits weeping on his stone ;  
Heaven's Angel still, though on her earthly throne.

## EPITAPH ON VOLTAIRE.

---

Here lies interr'd Voltaire ; no letter'd name  
Can boast more brilliant, more extensive fame.  
On him what various gifts did heaven confer !—  
Poet, historian, wit, philosopher ;  
But ah !—peruse it, Christian, with a tear—  
The chief of infidels lies buried here :  
Lament the abuse of such rare talents given ;  
Lament such dire ingratitude to heaven.

## EPITAPH ON NAPOLEON.

---

Lo ! here, on this lone isle amid the deeps,  
From his proud height of conquest, greatness  
hurl'd,

Buried in silent night, Napoleon sleeps !  
Long Gallia's boast, the wonder of the world !

Though humbly born, Ambition claim'd her child ;  
Fate urged him on, his great career to fill ;  
On him, in war, in dangers, Fortune smiled ;  
And on his eagles Victory waited still.

By battles won, by policy profound,  
Kings he dethroned, fill'd Europe with dismay :  
England alone, of all the nations round,  
His power opposed, disdaining to obey.

Forced by the flames of Moscow to retreat,  
Half his vast host by cold, by famine, dies.  
Famed Waterloo beheld his last defeat ;—  
There sunk his glory's sun ;—ne'er more to rise.

Briton ! from this sad spot ere thou depart,  
Pause !—while his shade complains in Fancy's  
ear ;—

‘ Had generous feeling warm'd thy Sovereign's  
heart,

Though Briton's foe, I had not perish'd here.’

## EPITAPH ON LORD BYRON.

---

Lo ! Byron's tomb !—

Here, deeply pensive, scan  
The greatness,—and the littleness of man.  
In timeless death here Freedom's Martyr sleeps,  
Whom, her lost Champion, Greece, desponding,  
          weeps.  
The impassion'd Bard, whose Genius, wing'd with  
          flame,  
Swept, like a comet, through the sphere of fame,  
Dazzling the astonish'd world, lies buried here.  
Thus human Glory ends its bright career.  
To Byron what high gifts did heaven impart !  
An intellect sublime, a feeling heart ;

But ah ! his wild desires, his passions strong,  
Hurried him irresistibly along  
Wherever Pleasure call'd, through good, or ill ;  
No law could bridle his own proud self-will.  
O ! had but Virtue ruled his mighty mind,  
Byron had been—the first of human kind !

## EPITAPH ON SIR SAMUEL ROMILLY.

---

What, what can knowledge, virtue, fame, avail ?  
Crown they with happiness our mortal state ?  
Ah ! no : what dire, unthought-of woes assail !  
O wretched Man ! thou art the slave of fate.

Lo ! Romilly, in pangs, expiring lies !—  
His frantic hand—O horror !—doom'd to bleed ?—  
His wakening Conscience opes her frightened eyes—  
' O God !' she groans, ' I disavow the deed.'

His guardian Angel sheds a pitying tear ;—  
Then, fearless of the heavenly Judge's ire,  
He leads his Spirit, blushing to appear,  
Into the holy presence of her Sire.



## EPITAPH ON WILBERFORCE.

---

Champion of justice and humanity,

He toil'd, through life, to set the Negro free :

At length, Britannia spoke the godlike word—

Burst were the bonds, the shouts of Freedom  
heard !

Thy life-bonds, too, O Wilberforce ! were riven,

Thy task was done,—it was thy call to heaven !

## EPITAPH.

---

Mortal ! whoe'er thou art, that passest by,  
Stop, and behold this stone with heedful eye !  
Here lies a Youth, whom Death's resistless power,  
In health's full vigour, at the festal hour,  
All unprepared, alas ! to meet his doom,  
Snatch'd suddenly to an untimely tomb.

Mortal take heed !—in awful silence think,  
Thou stand'st upon Eternity's dread brink ;  
O listen to Religion's warning cry !—  
' Man, know thy nature, and prepare to die !'

TRANSLATED FROM ANACREON.

---

Though thou hast seen my locks are gray,  
Ah! do not, Julia, turn away ;  
Nor, though the bloom of Spring is thine,  
Disdainfully my love decline.  
Behold yon wreath !—how lovely shows  
The snowy lily with the blushing rose !

## EPIGRAMS.

---

ON HEARING OF THE BURNING OF MOSCOW.

May European Liberty  
In Moscow's flames her torch relume !  
And Gallic Tyranny  
In Moscow's ruins find a tomb !

---

Locke says—the soul may slumber ;—  
Lavater says—the soul is seen  
Reflected in the mien ;—  
The last assertion true,  
Proofs of the first we view  
In faces without number.

## TO A HYPOCRITICAL CALVINIST.

By faith alone, you say, not works,  
Man must obtain salvation ;—  
If you are saved, the doctrine needs  
No better confirmation.

---

My Lady Sceptical, for want of proof,  
What all believe, denies ;  
Yet she believes what all, with proof, deny,  
That she is wondrous wise.

---

‘The dullest ass may write  
In verse, that jingling stuff!’  
Indeed, Sir? have you tried?  
‘I have.’ That’s proof enough.

Yon fop has strangely got it in his noddle  
That he excels in tragic declamation ;  
Kemble's the favourite, and the model,  
That claims his praise, and prompts his imitation :  
Now, that the praise is just, none can deny ;  
But the imitation gives that praise the lie :  
Decide, ye Critics ! for 'tis hard to know,—  
Is he to Kemble's fame a friend or foe ?

---

## TO JULIA.

Mark ! how the Rose, when Phœbus burns,  
Averts her blushing face ;  
Mark ! how the Sun-flower fondly turns  
To meet his warm embrace :  
Like the coy rose, when woo'd by others, be,  
Like the fond sun-flower, Love, when woo'd by me.

The Chancellor keeps the conscience of the King.  
This seems, at first, a strange, mysterious thing ;  
But there's a deep-laid policy in it ;  
For, did the Chancellor not—that conscience keep,  
It might, perchance, be doom'd on thorns to sit ;  
Seated on wool, it may securely sleep.

---

Papist and Protestant can ne'er agree.  
' Pat !'—cries an Englishman—' 'tis clear to me,  
More grateful for the union you should be ;  
Think what an honour is to Ireland done :  
Zounds ! John Bull wed a whore of Babylon !'  
" Murther !"—cries Pat—" he wedded her by  
force,  
And, by my shoul, she longs for a divorce."

ON THE NEW EXPERIMENT OF LIGHTING THE HOUSE  
OF COMMONS BY MEANS OF GAS-PIPES PLACED  
BETWEEN THE TWO CEILINGS.

Too long within the House has darkness dwelt,  
Egyptian darkness, by the nation felt ;  
Therefore, though demagogues, whose deeds are ill,  
For blind debate might love that darkness still,  
'Tis well the new experiment to try :  
A stronger, purer light—none can deny—  
Will then illumine the House—light coming from  
on high.

---

' Not one of all my actors, rot 'em !'  
Cried Hal,—' can play the part of Bottom.'  
" Play it yourself ;"—retorted Ned,—  
" You'll look quite natural with an ass's head."



## ON SEEING MR. NUTES,

A SENSELESS, UNFEELING FELLOW, WEEP AT THE

REPRESENTATION OF KING LEAR.

Henceforth at miracles who'll dare to mock ?  
No wonder Orpheus' lyre could move the brutes,  
Or Moses' rod strike water from the rock ;  
Lo ! Shakspeare's genius melts the heart of Nutes,  
Draws tears of pity from a barber's block !

---

A quack, a mere anatomy,  
Wanting to buy a nag,  
Questions his friend, a wag,  
What colour it shall be :—

‘ White,’ he replies, ‘ let it be white, of course,  
For then you'll look like Death on the pale horse.’

## ON THE

## LATE REFORM AND THE WHIG ADMINISTRATION.

Reform ! reform ! cries out the longing nation ;—  
The people hail their own-elected House ;  
On tiptoe stands the general expectation :—  
What the grand doings of the Administration ?  
Lo ! from the labouring mountain creeps a mouse !

---

Metaphysical Sages  
Have writ many pages,  
To decide if the Mind  
Be Spirit or Matter :—  
How strange ! that in the pages  
Of these metaphysical sages  
We so seldom can find  
Mind, Spirit, or Matter !

TO A

CONCEITED &amp; AFFECTED, BUT HANDSOME WOMAN.

Why, when I praise you, Ma'am, why tell me flat,

All flattery you despise?—

Self-love, the greatest flatterer, tells you that,

And I am sure he lies.

---

What a strong contrast to most modern sages

Were some philosophers of ancient ages !

E'en Socrates, so wise, yet modest too,

Own'd he knew only that he nothing knew.

Now ! vain pretenders such presumption show,

They seem to fancy that they all things know.

Ye moderns, thus puff'd up with vanity,

Would that ye knew but half as much as he !

## ON TWO SISTERS WHO ARE ALWAYS QUARRELLING.

Pale is Amelia's face,  
And red Lavinia's nose is ;  
The sisters ever jar :  
'Tis like the civil war  
Between the rival roses.

---

On that dark theme, man's genealogy,  
How strangely people's notions disagree !—  
Sir Snub-nose, growling, swears that he can trace  
Strong kindred likeness to the monkey-race :—  
My Lady Graceful smiles, well-pleased, to find  
Far more resemblance to the Angelic-kind :—  
Sure the reflection from their looking-glasses  
Into their minds,—to prompt opinion—passes.

Would-be philosophers have tried to scan  
The pedigree of that odd creature, man.  
'We are of monkey-race!' Sir Snub-nose cries.  
Your strange assertion strikes me with surprise ;  
(I, for my part, the compliment decline)—  
But do you, Sir, sincerely thus opine ?  
'I do indeed : nay more, I'm sure 'tis true !'  
Is't possible ?—Yet, when I look on you,—  
I, verily, begin to think so too.

---

'Oh ! Doctor ! I've had such a headache—so bad !  
I was fearful I should have gone out of my senses.'  
"I should not have wonder'd, dear Ma'am, if you  
had,  
You'd not have to go far to leap over those fences."

ON THE CONDUCT OF SOME FEW CLERGYMEN, WHO  
ARE A DISGRACE TO THEIR SACRED PROFESSION.

Satan, says scripture, like a roaring lion,  
Goes about, seeking whom he may devour.  
What should a priest, then, chiefly keep his eye on?  
To guard his flock against the tempter's power.—  
Pshaw ! what he chiefly looks at is to fleece 'em :  
To seize his prey, the tithes, and still increase 'em :  
Like a devouring lion is the priest ;  
Or—give the devil his due—you'll own, at least,  
He has the marks about him of the beast.

---

Why, Sir, so proud to sign your name M.D. ?  
' It means I'm member of the Faculty.'  
Hum !—from your practice else one might infer  
It meant mock-doctor, or death's minister.

## ON THE MARCH OF INTELLECT.

‘ March on ! march swiftly on ! ’ the people cry,  
Let us pursue Truth, Knowledge, Liberty !  
March not so fast, my friends ! or you will find,  
That, in your haste, you’ve left them all behind.

---

One day Maria, that keen-witted Belle,  
Challenged her Beau to play at Bagatelle.  
‘ What shall we play for ? ’—Edwin quickly cried ;  
“ Whate’er you please ; ” the smiling girl replied.  
‘ Then for a kiss, fair lady, we will play.’  
He wins the game, and straight demands his pay.  
“ No ” — ‘ Yes ’ — “ I wont ” — ‘ You shall ’ — “ I  
wont be kiss’d :  
I’ll pay you with a check—if you persist.”

ON HEARING MR. \* \* \* \* BOAST THAT HE COULD  
TRANSLATE VIRGIL.

Thou able, boaster ! Virgil to translate !  
Can'st thou, then, be so vain, so shallow-pated ?  
To a far higher intellectual state,  
Coxcomb ! thou must, thyself, be first translated.

---

A lady had a sickly son ;  
A skeleton but for his skin :—  
Her pretty maid he woo'd, and won ;—  
The mother chid him for his sin.—  
' Her charms were not to be withstood,  
Too tempting for frail flesh and blood !  
As you, dear Ma'am, must fairly own.'  
"That's no excuse for skin and bone."



ON DR. \* \* \* \*,

A MERE PRETENDER TO MEDICAL SCIENCE, OFFICIOUSLY  
OFFERING ME HIS SERVICES.

‘ Should you e’er be unwell, send directly for me ;  
To cure you I’ll haste with all possible speed,  
Prescribe and find medicine without any fee.’—  
Oh ! Doctor ! your offer’s most generous indeed ;  
I’d accept—but for something—the vast obligation.  
‘ But for what, pray ?’—The instinct of self-preservation.

---

If, as Swift says, in the most delicate mind  
Nastiest ideas we are sure to find,  
Then—equal to his humour and his wit  
Swift’s delicacy we must all admit.

ON HEARING A PARSON READ VERY BADLY A  
SERMON HE HAD BOUGHT.

That sermon, reverend Sir, which you have bought,  
To save your idle brain the toil of thought,  
You read in such a dull, lethargic tone,  
It seems almost as stupid as your own.

---

Pursefull's a stickler for the law's abuse :—  
To him, 'tis clear, it was of sterling use.

---

Pursefull still advocates the law's abuse.—  
What moralist can gratitude condemn ?  
They, formerly, have done so much for him ;  
Ought he not, now, to do his best for them ?

TO MR. BURY, AN EMINENT SURGEON IN COVENTRY,  
ON HIS HAVING PERFORMED A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION, IN A  
CASE OF DEEPLY-SEATED INFLAMMATION IN THE NECK,  
WHEN THE PATIENT WAS IN EXTREME DANGER OF IMME-  
DIATE SUFFOCATION.

BURY, for practice bold and skill

Deserves to be of note ;

He cures by means that well might kill,—

He cuts his patient's throat !

---

When Satan tempts a priest to rise,

‘ It is the call of heaven !’ he cries,

And mount's ambition's ladder :—

To heaven's own call that bids him be,

Like Christ, full of humility,

He's deafer than an adder.

AFTER HAVING SEEN SEVERAL BAD PAINTINGS OF  
THE DEATH OF SIR JOHN MOORE.

Cease, daubers ! profane not the theme, I implore  
ye !

But leave him, O leave him alone with his glory !

---

Man's owl-eyed reason—Popish Priests assert—  
Can't safely bear the gospel's heavenly light ;  
Therefore, with kindest zeal, they do their best  
To keep their flocks in unilluminated night.

---

'The brokers of the Stock-Exchange  
Are nicknamed bears and bulls ;—how strange !  
What reason, Sir, to call them so ?'  
Ma'am, see their manners, you will know.

ON HEARING A LADY TALK VERY FAST AND  
UNINTELLIGIBLY.

Words upon words impetuous rush along,  
And tread each other's brains out as they throng.

---

'Admire my wife ! did ever mortal eyes'—  
Cornuto, in a rapture, boasting cries—  
'Such a fine set of teeth of ivory view ?  
And such a fine complexion's ivory hue ?  
Fool ! hide thy head ! both her and thee we scorn :  
Oft the wife's ivory makes the husband's horn.

---

I'm told Sir Pigmy mimics me ;—what then ?  
Don't we all know that monkies mimic men ?

‘ I cannot say your poem I admire ;  
It wants originality and fire ;  
Besides, I find it, by no means, correct ;  
You’ve written it in haste, I should suspect.’  
“ What ! do you think me then a jackass, pray ?”  
‘ I shall think so if you so loudly bray.’

---

A worthy man of rags  
Intreats for charity  
A rogue of money-bags.  
‘ Pshaw ! it at home begins.’  
Then serve thyself and me ;  
For it will be no less  
A cover to thy sins,  
Than to my nakedness.

The Fair-one, at her toilet, thus exprest  
The ambitious aims that swell'd her panting  
breast :

‘ Pull, Fanny, pull again, with all your might ;  
I must, to-day, be laced up very tight ;  
For, to a glorious conquest I aspire :—  
Know, that two Noblemen my charms admire !  
Pull, then, good girl ! I’ll be so tightly laced,  
That half-a-yard will measure round my waist.’  
‘ Hold !’ Cupid cries, ‘ for Love’s, for Pity’s sake ;  
You’ll strangle Beauty, and my bowstring break.’

---

In altering thus and shortening his oration,  
Sure the Reporters do Lord Flimsy wrong ;  
It well may fill his Lordship with vexation,  
When he has toil’d so hard to make it long.

‘ I’ve writ an epigram ;—here, read it, do.—  
The critics praise it highly :—what think you ?’  
“ I don’t much like it.” ‘ No ! ’tis very fine.’  
“ It may be to your taste—’tis not to mine.”  
‘ I say ’tis finely pointed.’ “ Well ! so be it !—  
The point may be too fine for me to see it.”  
‘ Then, let me tell you, Sir, you must be blind.’  
“ Many more like me I’m afraid you’ll find.”

---

Wise radicals ! to make it bear more fruit,  
They fain would tear the tree up by the root.  
Young trees, we know, may sometimes thrive  
transplanted,  
But old ones can’t ;—’tis by all gardeners granted.  
’Twill die ;—and when the good old tree is dead,  
What sort of tree, pray, will they plant instead ?



The Squire has long imagined that his son

Is deeply studying Coke and Lyttelton.

They meet.—‘ Dear Tom ! to see you gives me  
joy.—

How get you on in Law ? my clever boy !

In practice too ?—But Tom, what bills you draw !

Expensive work this studying of the law !’

The sly young Templar gulls his easy Sire :—

“ O ! I get on, Sir, to my heart’s desire ;

In chamber-practice I have much to do.”—

His answer—in a certain sense—is true.

---

To move her lover, a coquetish Miss

Began to sob, pretending she should faint ;—

Her maid restored her straight by whispering this :

‘ I fear, my lady, you forget your paint.’

ON THE MANY VIOLENT DISPUTES AMONG THE  
PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL.

The labourers in the vineyard toil  
(So numerous are their creeds)  
Far less to cultivate the soil,  
Than break each others' heads.

---

‘ Write epigrams ! why, Sir, there’s nothing in it.  
I would be bound—the merest scribbler could—  
To write one in a minute.’  
No doubt you could—but then there would  
Indeed, be nothing in it.

---

The ambitious rage of Russia nought controls,  
With her vast empire she’d unite the Poles.

ON HEARING A CLERGYMAN PREACH A DULL  
SERMON IN A LOUD, SHRILL VOICE.

Still, still his bell-like voice rings through my  
head ;

Yet not one bright thought cheers my mental  
view ;

O ! would that I were deaf, asleep, or dead !

Ye marble statues ! how I envy you !

---

To hear him preach the Methodistic creed,  
What eager crowds to Ranter's chapel speed !  
His eloquence the harden'd sinner frightens ;  
Like heaven itself—says Fame, he thunders,  
lightens.

I go to hear him ;—Fame has made a blunder ;—  
I see no lightning, though I hear the thunder.

For flowery sermons Doctor Drudge  
Of preachers at the top is ;—  
If from their influence we may judge,  
His flowers are only poppies.

---

Sir! you're both fool and knave!—to Frank,  
Blunt cries—

I know I am, Sir, Frank to Blunt replies :—  
Now, in self-knowledge if all knowledge lies,  
A fool, like Frank, must be extremely wise!

---

Vice is a mouse-trap, pleasure is the bait,  
Like mice, enticing mortals to their fate ;  
And of this truth experience leaves no doubt ;—  
'Tis far more easy to get in than out.

Old maids their spleen on marriage vent ;—

The reason would you know ?

'Tis not, that others are made wives,

But that they can't be so.

---

How grave he looks ! how mighty wise !—

He seems Minerva's sacred bird :—

He speaks ! our ears refute our eyes—

The cackling of a goose is heard.

---

How came that Jew, deform'd and old,

To wed the youthful, fair Coquette ?—

Ben had a purse well-stored with gold !

He caught her in't ;—'twas Hymen's net !

Flirtilla's teeth, well-form'd and white,

Were Hymen's pincers, and could bite !

When the Royal Exchange to the flames fell a  
prey,

All the Monarchs and Queens from their niches  
were thrown ;

Lackaday ! on the pavement in fragments they  
lay,

Every one except Charley the Second alone.

Strange event ! O my Muse ! to blind mortals  
below

Clear this mystery which none but immortals  
can know.

“ Cytherea and Momus pray'd Vulcan to spare  
The blithe, amorous King :—Vulcan granted  
their prayer.”







YC15552<sup>m</sup>

